

## **Jericho Environmental District (JED)**

### **A Program to Address Pollution, Waste Management and Public Health in Jericho**

#### **A Community Idea for Jericho:**

Special Services Districts are used in many parts of the world to pro-actively address solid, liquid and hazardous waste concerns. The idea is to establish a **Jericho Environmental District (JED)** to protect Jericho's unique land and water resources, and thus improve public health, quality of life and Jericho's natural beauty.

#### **Proposed Plan for Action:**

The Center for Environmental Diplomacy (CED) would establish a preliminary office for JED in Jericho. A "JED Working Committee" of interested community representatives from Jericho would be organized to work with CED to design an institutional framework.

When a workable and sustainable framework for JED is defined, action would be taken to:

1. Gain approval and authority for JED from the appropriate Palestinian Authorities,
2. Establish broad-based environmental education and community support for JED, and
3. Develop the necessary technical, economic, and business capacities of JED.

Once established, JED will move forward with programs to:

1. Identify, evaluate and prioritize Jericho's environmental needs,
2. Develop a JED Environmental Action Plan,
3. Formulate a JED Project Funding Program, and
4. Go to work!

The hope is that JED will become a successful model for improving quality of life, protecting the environment and taking action to arrest serious threats to public health in other Palestinian communities. CED understands that the JED idea must be welcomed by the people of Jericho as a very important first step, for the initiative to go forward.

**Center for Environmental Diplomacy (CED)** is a group of volunteers concerned about public health and the quality of the environment. CED is a nonprofit organization based in Washington, DC with affiliated offices in Bethlehem (CED Palestine) and Jerusalem (CED Israel). The CED alliance is comprised of NGOs in the U.S., Palestine, Israel, Jordan and Japan, all working to advance cooperation on the environment.