



# CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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## 2013 Environmental Justice Small Grants Project Summaries

### **Big Sandy Rancheria, Auberry, Fresno County (\$14,192)**

This project will educate residents of the Big Sandy Rancheria about toxic household cleaning products, and how to manage and maintain septic systems and leach fields in order to avoid environmental problems. The project will also provide information about how to make inexpensive non-toxic household cleaners. These cleaners are healthier for household members, present no problems for septic systems, and have fewer impacts on the broader environment. In addition, the project will educate residents about how to identify and properly dispose of other household hazardous waste—including paint, fertilizers, batteries and oil—in order to prevent the contamination of the Rancheria's groundwater, well water and local streams. The Rancheria has 151 tribal member residents.

### **California Indian Environmental Alliance, Northern California (\$20,000)**

The "Making Healthy Fish Choices Klamath Region Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program" project aims to reduce the exposure of vulnerable populations in the region to mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Residents of this region are typically exposed to these toxins through fish consumption. The project will target women of childbearing age, pregnant women, infants, and young children. It will reduce exposure by educating over 500 families and their health care providers about how to use national and local fish advisories, and the benefits of eating fish low in toxins.

### **Central California Environmental Justice Network, Kern and Fresno Counties (\$20,000)**

The "Building Community Capacity to Monitor, Track and Address Environmental Health Hazards in Kern and Fresno Counties" project will support the maintenance and improvement of two web-based reporting systems that allow residents to report environmental hazards and notify agencies responsible for investigating and addressing potential environmental violations. The project will train residents to use the reporting systems and conduct outreach in the environmental justice communities of Wasco and Arvin in Kern County and Huron and West Fresno in Fresno County, educating at least 600 residents. The web-based reporting systems are located at [www.fresnoreport.org](http://www.fresnoreport.org) and [www.kernreport.org](http://www.kernreport.org). The fiscal sponsor for the project is Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs.

**Coalition for a Safe Environment, Los Angeles (\$20,000)**

The Coalition for a Safe Environment and the Los Angeles Community Environmental Enforcement Network will monitor air quality in a predominately Latino neighborhood in Wilmington, Calif., impacted by heavy industrial land uses. The project aims to reduce exposure to toxic air pollutants through a web site providing both real-time data reporting and the ability for residents to make incident reports in English and Spanish. Data gathered through the air monitor and reports will be shared with community members and local, state and federal regulators. The project will focus on approximately 500 residents.

**Comité Civico del Valle, San Diego/Imperial County (\$20,000)**

The Comité Civico del Valle Project will conduct two environmental justice leadership summits in conjunction with a bus tour in the Imperial and Coachella Valleys. The summits will be two-day events with a projected attendance of at least 300. The target audience for the summits are local residents, community partners, parents, commissioners, business leaders and government representatives. The summits will disseminate research addressing local environmental health issues and concerns, and provide workshops on how to address health concerns related to air particulate matter and water contamination, understanding the California Environmental Quality Act, and understanding enforcement protocols.

**Communities for a Better Environment (CBE), East Oakland (\$20,000)**

This project focuses on concerns about exposure to toxic pollutants raised by parents in the Elmhurst neighborhood of East Oakland. CBE staff will work with at least 100 community members, with an emphasis on Spanish speakers, to conduct training on environmental justice and cumulative impacts. They will also conduct a series of trainings with at least 30 community members on public participation in environmental decision-making, environmental cleanup and permitting processes. The project will also collect data regarding toxic pollutants in the neighborhood. The data will be shared with the community, elected officials and the Department of Toxic Substances Control.

**Community Water Center, Southern San Joaquin Valley (\$20,000)**

The Community Water Center project will help address the lack of safe and affordable drinking water in rural communities. This will be achieved by providing ongoing technical assistance and support coordination in at least five environmental justice communities in the southern San Joaquin Valley. The support will be designed to enhance effective community participation in addressing local community water challenges and their root causes, such as nitrate contamination of drinking water sources. It will also support local efforts to educate decision-makers, agencies and other organizations on community water challenges and efforts to address them.

**Del Amo Action Committee, Los Angeles (\$20,000)**

The Del Amo Action Committee Project will work with leaders of environmental justice organizations in the greater Los Angeles area in order to build their capacity to participate in environmental justice policy discussions at the local and state level. The project seeks to facilitate input and collaboration with governmental bodies on issues such as reducing exposures to toxic chemicals in disproportionately impacted communities, improving regulatory enforcement in environmental justice communities, building the capacity of grassroots groups, and enhancing meaningful participation by those most impacted by governmental decisions related to environmental justice communities.

**Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice, Kettleman City (\$20,000)**

The Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice project will focus on building the skills, knowledge and capacity of community members in Kettleman City by training new youth and adult leaders. It will recruit youth and adults to participate in the Greenaction Leadership Academy. The academy will educate residents about environmental health issues—including reproductive and children's health, and cumulative impacts—and about how to increase civic engagement in governmental decision-making processes to reduce pollution. It will provide five in-classroom trainings, two days of community education, one outreach session speaking to truck drivers about diesel idling, and one public meeting speaking on an issue affecting the community. The academy will be conducted in Spanish and English and curriculum materials will be provided in both languages.

**National Justice Indian Center, Statewide (\$20,000)**

The goal of the National Indian Justice Center project is to increase the capacity of tribal, state and local environmental regulatory agencies to work cooperatively on issues of environmental quality and enforcement on and near California tribal lands. The project will develop a training curriculum to address tribal environmental enforcement issues; design a self-paced, online course on these issues; and provide training to tribal governments. The project will offer the course to 120 or more members of the target audience and conduct an evaluation of the curriculum once the course is complete.

**Pacific Institute, McCloud River Area, Northern California (\$20,000)**

The Pacific Institute project will build the capacity of members of the Winnemem Wintu Tribe to map their environment and communicate research and solutions regarding the environmental justice challenges they face. The Winnemem Wintu are a small, federally unrecognized tribe of 150 members connected to the McCloud River, Mount Shasta and the surrounding meadows in Shasta County. The challenges they face include issues related to sacred sites, cultural survival, water reliability and fish habitat. This participatory research project will generate data, maps and a research report that the Tribe will use to more fully participate in decision-making processes affecting their health, environment and culture.

**Pacoima Beautiful, Los Angeles (\$15,000)**

The Pacoima Beautiful project will provide an educational workshop program to prepare residents in Pacoima for full participation in governance and regulatory processes. Pacoima Beautiful will develop a comprehensive People's Planning School curriculum to train residents in the civic process, public speaking, land use and urban design, and other key environmental issues. This workshop series will also serve to form a responsive team of community leaders capable of confidently advocating for needed changes and improvements in their community.

**Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment, Oakland and Richmond (\$19,983)**

The Rose Foundation's New Voices Are Rising project is a youth-focused, community-driven educational program focused on environmental justice and civic engagement. The project works with low-income students and students of color in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Its curriculum combines civic education with hands-on exercises about the links between toxic pollution and health impacts, climate change and community vulnerability, and community members and environmental-decision making. Students will develop and practice skills in issue analysis, community mapping and impact analysis, argument development, community outreach and public speaking.