

February 2009 Grants List

Butte Environmental Council <i>Developing Capacity to Protect the Watershed</i>	\$5,400	The BEC is a regional leader in promoting community-based stewardship of Sacramento Valley watersheds. Funds will support capacity development to enhance all of BEC's watershed protection programs.
Californians for Pesticide Reform <i>Central Valley Pesticide Campaign</i>	\$12,500	Over 80 million pounds of pesticides are applied each year in the San Joaquin Valley counties of Fresno, Tulare, Kern and Madera. Funding supports continued outreach and organizing to Central Valley farmworker communities to demand health and watershed-protective pesticide policies.
City Slicker Farms (Fiscal sponsor: OBUGS) <i>General Support</i>	\$4,620	City Slicker Farms involves hundreds of West Oakland community volunteers in growing nearly 20,000 pounds of organic produce each year at six urban garden sites, diverting over 60,000 pounds of waste from landfills, and utilizing 100% fossil fuel-free bicycle transportation. They host organic farming workshops for local schools and the community.
Clean Water Fund <i>Toxics Exposure Reduction Project: Upstream/Downstream Approach</i>	\$12,500	Through policy advocacy and community leadership training, Clean Water Fund will help reduce Bay and Delta water pollution through promoting green chemistry alternatives to hazardous chemicals, advocating take-back campaigns for pharmaceuticals, and by supporting local community advocacy to reduce mercury, perchlorate and other toxics in the Bay/Delta watershed.
Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch <i>Community Action Project</i>	\$10,000	The Community Action Project educates and organizes Calaveras residents to become active in promoting the inclusion of water quality, watershed protection, and environmental sustainability objectives in updating the Calaveras County General Plan and in individual development proposals.
Environmental Justice Coalition for Water <i>Water Justice in the Delta</i>	\$22,500	The Environmental Justice Coalition for Water is a coalition of more than 60 grassroots groups and policy organizations working to empower low income communities of color on water justice issues. Funding will support community training to enable better Delta communities' participation water quality policy and decision making. Funds will also help defray the publication of a report on the relationships between water quality and community health in the Delta.
Environmental Law Foundation <i>Anti-degradation & Public Trust Project</i>	\$21,500	The federal Clean Water Act and the common-law Public Trust Doctrine require the State of California to protect water quality and maintain beneficial uses of all watersheds. Through policy development, regulatory advocacy, and strategic litigation, ELF is utilizing these doctrines to achieve broad water quality improvements for the entire watershed.
Madera Oversight Coalition <i>Strategic Litigation on Sustainable Growth</i>	\$100,000	Based on its badly outdated General Plan, Madera County is in the process of approving several huge development projects that would house a combined total of 100,000 people in the largely undeveloped southeast portion of the county. The Madera Oversight Coalition is a group of residents who have joined together to encourage more sustainable land use planning. Funds will help build MOC's capacity to advocate for smarter growth planning in Madera County, and will defray legal fees and costs related to opposing two huge proposed developments covering a combined 4,000 acres.
Northern California Environmental Grassroots Fund (Fiscal Sponsor: Rose Foundation)	\$60,000	The contribution by the Rose Foundation leverages funding from approximately 20 other foundations to support very small community-based environmental organizations that most funders typically do not reach at all.

<p>Parents for a Safer Environment <i>Reduce Herbicide Use in Contra Costa County Flood Control Channels</i></p>	<p>\$17,500</p>	<p>Last year Contra Costa County applied 8,000 pounds of herbicides to the 70 miles of flood control channels that flow into San Pablo Bay, Suisun Bay and the San Joaquin River. Although alternative non-toxic weed control measures, such as goats, have been widely utilized elsewhere, to date Contra Costa has refused to consider these alternatives. Funding will support monitoring to assess how much of the herbicides sprayed on the channels are flushed downstream after rainfall; a demonstration project to show the county that goats are fully capable of weed abatement; a review paper summarizing the effectiveness of goat-based weed control; and policy advocacy to encourage non-toxic methods for weed control.</p>
<p>Pesticide Watch Education Fund <i>Northern California Community Assistance Project</i></p>	<p>\$15,000</p>	<p>More than 2 million pounds of pesticides are annually applied to lawns and parks in the Sacramento River Basin alone. Funding will support coalition building and advocacy of pesticide-free policies for schools, parks and communities throughout Sacramento County and the North Bay. Funding will also support trainings to help local community members better advocate for reduced pesticide use through improved campaign, messaging, fundraising and organizational skills.</p>
<p>San Francisco Baykeeper <i>General Support</i></p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>Funding will support monitoring, policy development, advocacy and strategic litigation to protect the San Francisco Bay & Delta from raw sewage spills; reduce non-point source runoff from industrial facilities; and regulate agricultural pollution and invasive species.</p>
<p>Student Conservation Association <i>San Mateo County Parks Green Force Conservation Crew</i></p>	<p>\$10,000</p>	<p>The Green Corps engages diverse Bay Area teens in accomplishing important habitat restoration projects, achieving direct watershed benefits while also helping at-risk youth build important life skills. Funding supports a partnership with the San Mateo Parks Dept. to conduct trail maintenance and habitat restoration in a dozen county parks.</p>
<p>Tri-Valley CARES <i>Protecting Bay Area Water</i></p>	<p>\$500</p>	<p>Last year, Tri-Valley CARES stopped Livermore lab from discharging up to 80 million gallons of contaminated groundwater directly into the municipal sewage system as part of a Superfund "clean-up." Funding supports continued monitoring of the clean-up plan.</p>
<p>University of the Pacific <i>Arundo donax Invasive Species Project</i></p>	<p>\$30,400</p>	<p>Arundo is an aggressive, bamboo-like invasive grass that thrives in the Delta's warm fresh-water ecosystem. Currently accepted treatments involve herbicide spraying or heavy machinery – but both of these methods degrade water quality and riparian habitat. Funding supports work by a team of graduate students to field-test and refine non-toxic eradication methods.</p>