



Rose Foundation

For Communities and the Environment

Supporting grassroots initiatives to inspire community action for environmental protection and public health

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Settlements Fuel \$2 Million In Grants

Rose Foundation is supporting over 30 environmental stewardship organizations throughout Northern California and 16 privacy rights organizations nationally, all enabled by court-ordered restitution payments.



Restore the Delta is a broad coalition of farmers, fishermen, business leaders, faith-based communities and Delta residents working to improve water quality so that fisheries, farming and communities can all thrive together. Photo Credit: Arturo Vera, Restore the Delta.

Particular thanks go to the Utility Consumers Action Network for negotiating a landmark consumer privacy settlement with Bank of America that sent over \$1.6 million to Rose, enabling grants nationwide to protect privacy rights. Grantees include the *American Civil Liberties Union*, the *Electronic Privacy Information Center*, and *Patient Privacy Rights* for projects on medical privacy, workplace privacy and projects that address behavioral tracking of internet users.

We also extend heartfelt thanks to the *California Sportfishing Protection Alliance*, *San Francisco Baykeeper* and other community-based environmental enforcement organizations whose tireless efforts to protect the Bay /Delta watershed generated over \$400,000 in settlement awards to help Rose fund local stewardship projects. Grants enabled by these awards include environmental education led by *Kids for the Bay* and *EarthTeam*; environmental health and justice outreach conducted by the *Ma'at Youth Academy* and *Physicians for Social Responsibility*; and many community-based efforts to protect the Bay /Delta ecosystem and Central Valley watersheds, including the *Community Water Center*, *Environmental Water Caucus*, and the *Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment*.



Physicians for Social Responsibility's Pediatric Health Toolkit, which contains comprehensive environmental health guidance in both English and Spanish, has been distributed to more than 1,000 health care providers in the Bay Area.

GRASSROOTS FUND CONVENING

The Northern California Environmental Grassroots Fund will hold its annual grantee convening on November 14 at Preservation Park in Oakland. This year's event will focus on e-activism: how Internet technology can help groups become better activists. The convening will cover electronic newsletters, accepting online donations, online donor databases, social networking sites and other Web 2.0 applications. This year's event is co-sponsored with the California Wildlands Grassroots Fund, a sister organization that funds many of the same cutting-edge grassroots groups that Rose supports.

New Website Coming Soon!

The Rose Foundation's website is being completely overhauled. Some new features will include a searchable grants database, interactive maps, news updates, action alerts and streamlined grant application instructions. We should be live with the new site in September. Please visit us at www.rosefdn.org and let us know what you think. Many thanks to the California Wellness Foundation and the Center for Civic Partnerships, a project of the Public Health Institute, for enabling this upgrade.



2008 Anthony Grassroots Prize



El Quinto Sol helped children in Plainview paint this mural to express how environmental issues impact their lives. Photo by Irma Arrollo

The Anthony Grassroots Prize is an annual \$1,000 Earth Day award recognizing an outstanding example of grassroots environmental stewardship. This year there were two prize winners – both based in small farming communities in the heart of the Central Valley. *Vecinos Unidos* was founded by residents of Cutler, Oroquieta and East Oroquieta to advocate for the basic human right of safe drinking water. *El Quinto Sol de America* helps local farmworker communities throughout Tulare County express their voice through the universal language of art.

New Voices Are Rising Students Spark Smelter Cleanup

In spring 2007, students from EXCEL High School in West Oakland began a series of neighborhood 'pollution patrols' in collaboration with *New Voices Are Rising* and *Global Community Monitor*. Outside a local scrap processing facility near the school, students found metal debris that contained the same toxic metals that were found in dust samples taken from their classroom windows. Students went public – enlisting the press, the neighbors, their local city

councilmember and their congresswoman in an effort to make sure that the facility complies with all applicable laws.

As a result of the students' ongoing work, and that of their allies, Councilmember Nancy Nadel is asking the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to review the facility's emissions for toxics such as dioxin and cadmium. And, Oakland city agencies are taking the following actions:

- Reviewing plant protocols for recycling appliances to make sure toxic chemicals are not released into the environment.
- Investigating reports of open burning and of dangerous materials burned along with metal scrap.
- Researching building safety and noise violations.
- Reviewing the status of the company's business permits.
- Monitoring improper truck parking and idling around the facility.



EXCEL students help present reports of violations and disturbances at the smelter to Oakland city officials. Counterclockwise from bottom: Deanna Young, Kiyana Jones, Jamelah Isaac, Joyce Ominiona.

Congratulations to the students for catalyzing this action, and thank you to the neighbors, Global Community Monitor, Councilmember Nadel and everyone involved in the clean-up effort!

Dumping Dirty Diesel

Almost two million diesel trucks use California's highways every year, carrying everything from Central Valley tomatoes to electronics from Asia. These trucks – and the goods they carry – help keep California's economy rolling.

But Californians pay for this prosperity with health problems including asthma, cardiovascular diseases, and even premature death. Because the ports, rail yards and freeways where trucks concentrate are most often located near low-income communities and communities of color, some Californians are hit even harder than others.

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) staff is drafting a rule that could reduce truck pollution by 85%. This rule would require particle filters on older trucks by 2011; and by 2022, all truck fleets would gradually be required to meet modern engine emission standards. The Board will vote on the rule in October.

This past spring, *New Voices Are Rising* and the *EarthTeam Environmental Network* asked 350 students from fifteen classes in Oakland, Hercules, and Pinole, California to explore connections between diesel pollution, asthma, environmental justice, and air regulations. As a final project, students wrote postcards to the Air Resources Board, sharing their concerns about diesel pollution. Here are some excerpts:

*Dear Chairman Nichols,
Behind my house is Highway I-80 Many trucks pass through the freeway everyday. Every time I open my window in my room, I get the 'fresh' air to come into my room. When my mom moved here from the Philippines, she was in good health. After 20 years of living in the same house, (where the freeway is in our backyard) my mom developed asthma and serious lung problems. I feel that the diesel pollution is a big part of it; it really is true that one bad thing leads to another.
Gabriel Diaz, of Hercules High School*

*problems like cancer. I would like diesel pollution to stop. I hope you can do something about this situation.
Heidi Voong, of Oakland High*



**Ina Bendich -
Rose Foundation
Board Member**

Ina Bendich joined the Rose Foundation board of directors in 2007, and serves on the advisory board for our New Voices Are Rising program. She is the Director of the Law and Government Academy at EXCEL Academy, a public college preparatory school located in West Oakland at the McClymonds Learning Complex. Ina is constantly on the lookout for opportunities for her students to learn about the world beyond their neighborhoods and take on leadership roles at school and in the community. Before leaving the private sector in 2001, Ina worked to mentor young people through the Back On Track tutorial program. She is a graduate of the New College School of Law. Ina joined the Rose Foundation board because, "I believe that kids are the future, and the way the Rose Foundation approaches youth development is something I believe in."



Oakland High School students Brittany Conner and Vanessa Elias work on their letters to CARB, supporting the regulation of diesel emissions from trucks and buses.

Take Action!

Urge the Air Resources Board to adopt a rule to reduce diesel truck pollution. For more information, or to get help with your comments, contact Elizabeth de Rham, (510) 658-0702, ederham@rosefdn.org.

Spring House Party

Long-time Rose Foundation supporters (from l-r) June Brashares (seated), Woody Hastings and Misao Kusuda enjoy conversation and jazz at the Rose Foundation's Spring House Party in May.

