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**Klamath Community Leader Regina Chichizola Receives Earth Day Award for Protecting Water Quality and Salmon, and Supporting Tribal Communities.**

**Oakland, CA:** Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment today announced **Klamath River protector Regina Chichizola as the winner of the 2017 Anthony Grassroots Prize**, an annual \$1,000 Earth Day award recognizing an outstanding example of grassroots environmental stewardship.

Orleans activist Regina Chichizola is a dedicated volunteer advocate for wild salmon and environmental justice for Tribal communities. She focuses her passion towards protecting California's threatened aquatic ecosystems, and the people who depend on them for life's sustenance, especially the Tribes and commercial salmon fishermen of the Klamath-Trinity basin. She was an early leader in building the movement to remove four old and outdated dams from the Klamath River, which led to a historic water settlement between the dam operators, state and federal government, and some tribal nations around the cooperative removal of the dams. Although the settlement was not approved, dam removal is still moving forward through federal processes. Due to the combined effects of climate change, drought, water diversions, and dams, salmon populations on the Klamath and the fishermen and tribal members who depend on them are facing the worst salmon returns in recorded history, which has led to the closure of the commercial season locally and a meager Tribal allotment of about one fish per 10 Tribal members. Regina continues to promote the dam removal and other initiatives to restore anadromous fisheries – both for their commercial and cultural value – throughout the Klamath-Trinity basin and statewide.

One of Regina's early accomplishments was to found the California Forest Program at the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, which was instrumental in helping shift the management of northern California's national forests away from logging the last remaining pockets of old growth trees. After the Klamath River Fish Kill of 2002, Regina expanded her work to encompass water policy and salmon restoration. She helped in the founding of the Klamath Riverkeeper, and was Communications Coordinator for the Hoopa Valley Tribe. Much of her local work now channels through Save the Klamath-Trinity Salmon. She is also active with the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations and volunteers for the Klamath Justice Coalition and other native lead youth environmental and food security projects. Additionally, Regina is active in the campaign to remove old and outdated dams from the upper Eel River watershed and reopen a significant portion of the Eel's clear clean upstream habitat to spawning fish. She points to California's last several years of historic drought and the resulting fish kills of up to 91% of juvenile salmon in the Klamath River and 98% of winter run salmon in the Sacramento River as she connects her watershed with statewide

threats. She especially contrasts the state's focus on urban water conservation against corporate agriculture's expanded planting of water-intensive permanent crops such as almonds and pistachios, "Even though average Californians are being asked to cut their water use, corporate agriculture interests are expanding their acreage in the driest areas of California."

"Regina Chichizola lives in a place that most Californians have never visited, but she sees the connections between water issues throughout our state better than many of our representatives in Sacramento," said Anthony Prize founder Juliette Anthony. "She advocates for the tribal leaders that are combining hard science with deep spirituality to help all of us understand that the proposals to build the Delta Tunnels, raise the Shasta Dam and drain our aquifers are unjust, shortsighted and unsustainable."

To learn more about Regina Chichizola and Save Klamath-Trinity Salmon, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/SaveTheKlamathTrinitySalmon/>

**ATTENTION:** Photographs featuring Regina Chichizola's work can be found at: <https://rosefdn.org/2017prize>

#### **ABOUT the Anthony Grassroots Prize**

The **Anthony Grassroots Prize** was endowed by Juliette Anthony, a lifelong environmental activist who has received wide recognition for her work in protecting the Santa Monica Mountains, banning the toxic gasoline additive MTBE, promoting solar power, and publicizing the negative environmental impacts of ethanol. To learn more about the Anthony Grassroots Prize, please visit <http://rosefdn.org/anthony-grassroots-prize>

#### **ABOUT Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment**

Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment supports community-based advocacy to protect the environment and public health through grant-making and direct service programs. Rose Foundation's focus includes grassroots activism, watershed protection, environmental justice, and consumer rights. Rose also administers *New Voices Are Rising*, a youth leadership development and environmental justice advocacy training program. To learn more about the Rose Foundation, please visit <http://rosefdn.org/>

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