



COAL IN OAKLAND? NO! By Diane Stark



**People Power Beats Coal:
Community members make their own juice to power No Coal Rally**

*This year,
we saw public
agencies listen
to grassroots
organizations
and say,
'health matters.'*

- Tim Little,
Executive Director,
Rose Foundation

Leading up to the summer of 2016, Oakland residents were very concerned about a threat to their health and safety: the city was considering a project that would allow trains with open containers of coal to travel past their homes, schools, streets, and businesses. The coal would be collected at a bulk export terminal, where it would be shipped overseas. The plan did not consider the effects of air-borne coal particles on the residents of West Oakland who already breathe disproportionate amounts of the Bay Area's air pollution and have high asthma rates. Nor did it consider the health of the workers at the Port, or how more coal would exacerbate global warming.

Led by the Sierra Club, a "No Coal in Oakland" coalition formed, including a range of experts and concerned residents such as doctors, nurses, air quality advocates and specialists,

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COMMUNITY VOICES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

With the health of our environment and communities at stake, how can you make a difference to protect health and the environment for you and your neighbors? For 25 years, the Rose Foundations has been committed to supporting grassroots advocacy to inform and involve people to be heard and make a difference. Through your donations, we are continuing to build the grassroots base of the environmental movement. 🌱



GRANTEE

Over the past 25 years, Rose Foundation has awarded more than \$40 million in community grants and worked with hundreds of dedicated environmental activists. Here are profiles of some of our environmental heroes, activists that are working tirelessly to protect communities and our environment. We hope these stories inspire you, just as they have inspired us!

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Rose Grantee Helps Protect Families from Radioactive Contamination

A family dreams of living in a home along the San Francisco Bay. But that dream could be a nightmare if the soil in their yard is radioactive.

The Navy is taking steps to transfer its former shipyard, Radiological Defense Laboratory and industrial site at Hunters Point in scenic southern San Francisco to a developer so that it can be transformed to homes, businesses and a park. But first, the soil needs to be clean. So the Navy hired a contractor, Tetra Tech to test the soil. If the soil is contaminated, it must be properly remediated to make sure it is healthy for public exposure.

During the summer and fall of 2016, Rose Foundation grantee, Greenaction, worked with UC researchers, former Tetra Tech employee whistleblowers and NBC News to document and publicize that over 300 contaminated soil samples at Hunters Point had been switched with clean soil from other sites. In September 2016, EPA and the State Department of Toxic Substances Control halted the transfer of property from the Navy to the developer until the public exposure to radioactive soils at the site can be clarified. 🌱



Friends of the Columbia Gorge Fight Against Transporting Crude Oil

The Columbia River Gorge is the nation's largest National Scenic Area, with 80 miles of river, waterfalls, and trails for hiking, biking, gawking, and fishing. Located in the lush Pacific Northwest, it connects the Cascade Mountains to the sea. Vancouver Energy Project recently proposed to transport millions of gallons of crude oil a day on a rail line alongside the river to ocean-going tankers. Friends of Columbia River Gorge, a Rose Foundation grantee, needed scientific and engineering expertise to provide informed opposition to the project. They needed to demonstrate the threats and risks of accidents and oil spills on the river gorge and the people who live, play, work and fish there.

In June 2016, while the project was being considered, an oil car derailed and erupted into fire in the Columbia River Gorge. Against that backdrop of real risk to public health and the environment, an environmental review process took place. Friends of Columbia River Gorge was part of the strong opposition to the project, which included several environmental and First Nation groups. Friends of Columbia River Gorge filed a legal brief before the Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council to demonstrate the public and environmental hazards of the project. In October 2016, Shell Oil withdrew their application for another oil shipping facility in Anacortes, Washington. Columbia River activists hope Tesoro Savage will follow suit and withdraw the Vancouver Energy proposal. 🌱

STORIES

Shifting Financial Tides For People In Need

Rose Foundation is committed to advocacy to protect our environment, public health, and consumer rights. As part of a legal settlement against Bank of America for excessive debit card overdraft fees, Rose Foundation is managing its third round of grant making to organizations that provide financial education and literacy, particularly to underserved people. Below are some examples of the Consumer Financial Education Fund successes in the multiple programs across the United States in its latest funding rounds. 🌱

Saving People Most in Need from Excessive Bank Fees (See infographic, right)

A resident of California receiving CalWORKS benefits may have to pay a bank fee simply to withdraw the state benefit money that they desperately need. They have to pay ATM surcharge fees to access their public benefits that they receive through Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards. Banks earn \$19 million a year on fees from low income people using EBT cards – a heavy burden on people who can least afford to pay.

Thankfully, our grantee California Reinvestment Coalition (CRC), created a website, www.EBTforfree.com, which shows recipients where they can find nearby banks that do not charge ATM fees. This is helping millions of low income people avoid excessive fees that they cannot afford. CRC is also educating recipients of CalWORKs benefits, low income communities and communities of color other ways to have fair and equal access to banking and financial services. For more information, visit their website at www.calreinvest.org 🌱

"COAL IN OAKLAND, NO!" CONTINUED FROM COVER

spiritual groups, and labor leaders. The coalition included Rose Foundation grantees West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project and Ditching Dirty Diesel, and Oakland high school students in the New Voices Are Rising program. Together, they shared information with Oakland City Council about how transporting coal would further harm public health in a neighborhood that already has inequitably high levels of air pollution in the region.

The breadth and diversity of the No Coal in Oakland Coalition, and their arduous and consistent efforts, reports, and testimony resulted in the City of Oakland unanimously banning transporting coal through Oakland. 🌱

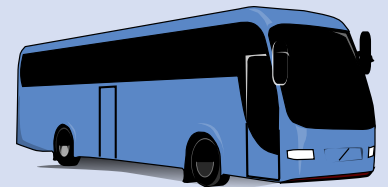


California Reinvestment Coalition reveals how people receiving CalWORKS could use money if they were not paying the high CalWORKS ATM fees:



In 1 month in **CALIFORNIA** school supplies for **2,349 KIDS**

In 1 month in **ALAMEDA COUNTY** **25,532** round trip bus rides



In 1 month in **LOS ANGELES COUNTY** co-pays for **90,000** prescriptions

NEW VOICES ARE RISING

The summer is over but the leadership development continues.

This summer, high school interns in our Summer Climate Justice Leadership Academy learned first-hand about issues impacting their neighborhoods and schools in Oakland and the Bay Area. They met decision makers at the City of Oakland and the Port of Oakland staff and worked with local grassroots advocacy coalitions, including No Coal in Oakland. They also learned through on-the-ground visits, like seeing the proposed coal terminal site in Oakland. They made a presentation about the relationship of No Coal in Oakland to their local air quality to over 50 community members at Oakland City Hall. After learning first-hand about air quality concerns in their neighborhoods, they visited their drinking water source at the Mokolumne River and learned how to protect it. Through several local field trips, they learned first-hand about environmental justice.

New Voices continues into the fall and winter through the Fellows' program. Javier Mejia-Cuenca reveals what he is most looking forward to during the New Voices Fellows program: "So far, what I am most excited for is the fact that I am a part of helping the community in so many ways. In an organization like this, you become a leader and approach activism in different ways."



Intern Javier Mejia-Cuenca reveals what he is most looking forward to during the New Voices Fellows program: "So far, what I am most excited for is the fact that I am a part of helping the community in so many ways. In an organization like this, you become a leader and approach activism in different ways."

The New Voices Fellows will be extremely busy this year helping our community now and for future generations. Stay connected with the fellows on Facebook @NewVoicesAreRising and on twitter. 🌱



I spoke out in City Council about No Coal in Oakland. I feel great about speaking out in public because I know this makes changes in my community.

– Pa Dwe, Intern



MEET THE 2016-2017

Pa Dwe

Born in Burma, Pa migrated to the United States at the age of nine. As a small child, Pa lived in the refugee village of Mae La, and connected deeply with the natural environment under the guidance of Buddhist monks. Since arriving to the U.S., Pa has work to defend his new community from the harms of pollution. Pa interned with the New Voices Are Rising 2016 Summer Climate Justice Youth Leadership Academy, and joined his fellow interns in opposing plans to export coal through Oakland's waterfront. For Pa, the most important issue we face today is the high rates of asthma present in children living in West Oakland and other low income communities. He is now a senior at Oakland/Emiliano Zapata Street Academy, where he is helping lead a tree-planting project and inspiring his classmates to create an urban forest to improve air quality. 🌱



GRANTEE STORIES: KUDOS TO JOSE QUINONEZ FOR A GENIUS WAY TO BUILD CREDIT SCORES



Our financial grantee, Jose Quinonez of Mission Asset Funds, received a MacArthur fellowship, also known as a “genius grant” for his creative problem solving to help underserved communities get access to credit. Access to financial services and non-predatory credit is critical for buying a car, renting an apartment, and getting other loans.

Noticing that many immigrants from Latin America, Africa and Asia make unconventional loans with one another through lending circles, Jose Quinonez, founder of MAF, began a program to report repayment of informal loans to credit rating bureaus. This way, untraditional loan repayments contribute towards building credit scores and access to critical loans.

The MacArthur Foundation recognized Jose Quinonez with the fellowship to allow him to develop other creative solutions to solve problems and help communities. 🌱

This award is a high honor that recognizes the ingenuity of people who live in the shadows, who come together to help one another to survive and thrive in life. The award lifts up what is right and good in people’s lives – the trust and commitment they have for one another. – Jose Quiñonez

NEW VOICES FELLOWS

Javier Mejia-Cuenca

Born in Oakland, Javier has always appreciated seeing nature. As a young boy in West Oakland, however, nature was not very common. Living near the West Oakland BART station, he saw his opportunity in a patch of land under the BART station tracks. The only thing that separated him and that piece of nature was a fence with a hole in it. That gap in the fence became Javier’s gateway to nature, and launched him into exploring the ecosystems of Oakland. Javier was a part of the New Voices Are Rising 2016 Summer Climate Justice Youth Leadership Academy and goes to MetWest High School. He loves environmental activism and is concentrating on food justice as a Fellow with the Rose Foundation during the fall. 🌱



Kierra Johnson

Kierra is new to the field of environmental and social justice work, but very passionate. A senior at Leadership Public Schools, she was part of The New Voices Are Rising Summer Climate Justice Leadership Academy. She always wanted to learn about issues that affect her community and the world around her. She believes the ability to learn about such important issues will allow her to help fix them. Her first step is helping build the urban farming movement in Oakland. With her new love for environmental and social justice work, she has joined Rose Foundation as a Fellow during the fall and plans to return next summer. 🌱

WELCOME TO NEW STAFF

We are excited to have a new team that is fluent in Spanish and brings advocacy experience from Columbia and Nicaragua to the Bay Area to join Rose Foundation.



From left to right, Mykela Patton, Laura Fernandez, Megan Mubariki, Diane Stark, Tim Little, Jill Ratner, Pamela Arauz, Carlos Zambrano

FAREWELL TO ROSE

Rose Foundation has been blessed to have a team of long-term, committed staff who have grown while on the team. We wish them the very best in their new ventures.



Jasmine Amons blossomed from an intern in 2009 to our Grants and Development Manager for the past three years. She was instrumental in managing our Grassroots and CalWildlands Funds, and our communications with grantees far and wide. We wish her the best in her new position as Program Associate for National Center for Youth Law. 🌱

F AT ROSE FOUNDATION

Carlos Zambrano, New Voices Are Rising Coordinator, a Santa Cruz native, found his voice working on environmental justice issues in Oakland after graduating from UC Berkeley where he studied geography and ethnic studies. He is excited to be coordinating the New Voices Are Rising Project, where he is already beginning to spark creativity and confidence in youth and help foster a new generation of environmental justice leaders. 🌱

Laura Fernandez, Grants Associate brings over five years of grassroots and nonprofit sector experience in advocacy, research and communications around climate change and sustainability to Rose Foundation. Originally from Colombia, her passion for community driven change and the environment brought her to the Rose Foundation. As Grants Associate, Laura helps manage the Foundation's various grant making programs by communicating with applicants, coordinating grants processes and administering grant contracts. She holds bachelor degrees in International Relations and Geography, and studied sustainable development in grad school in Geneva. 🌱

Pamela Arauz, Administrative Manager, brings her background of International Business with a concentration in Latin America studies, and her MBA and expertise leading operational processes for corporations and grassroots environmental non-profits to Rose Foundation. She is a committed advocate for making positive changes in communities of color. She has assisted various grass roots groups in the Bay Area to establish essential operating processes. She is excited to bring her skills, experience, and passion for the environmental health and justice movement to Rose Foundation. 🌱

Megan Mubaraki, Grants Assistant, brings invaluable experience as a former grantee of Rose Foundation. A native of San Diego, five years ago, she discovered her passion for environmental and food justice in the Bay Area after graduating from UC Berkeley where she studies environmental science and sociology. As a former Rose Foundation grantee with Food Shift, where she raised funds and did outreach to reduce food waste, create jobs, and feed underserved populations in Oakland. She is excited to live in the Bay Area and managing grassroots grants that make a difference for people and places in need. 🌱

Diane Stark, Development Director, raises funds to support the Rose Foundation's work to support grassroots initiatives to protect the environment, public health, and consumers. For over 20 years, she has focused her career on bringing community voices into land use and transportation planning and environmental protection in the San Francisco Bay Area. She combines her MES from Yale and her experience in fundraising, grant making, and filmmaking with a variety of public agencies and nonprofits to lead our development and communications. She is excited to join the Rose Foundation team to support grassroots environmental and social justice work. 🌱

Mykela Patton, Intern, Intern, is a senior at Skyline High School in Oakland, CA, and a graduate of the summer 2016 New Voices Are Rising Program, where she discovered she loves restoration work and the outdoors. Her passion for the environment began in 9th grade with her participation in Skyline's Green Energy Academy. She has become aware of environmental problems the world faces. As a Bay area native, she wants to make it, and the world, a better place. She is very excited to continue working with the Rose Foundation. 🌱

HEROES & S/HEROES



Jason Sutton was a long-term bookkeeper at Rose, who helped grow our accounting systems to keep pace with Rose's growth to an annual budget of over \$5 million during his seven years at Rose Foundation. We wish him well in his new role as Business Manager for National Center for Youth Law. 🌱



We thank **Anya Diamond**, a previous intern at Rose, for stepping in during our critical transition between previous and new staff at Rose Foundation. Anya continues to help on an ad hoc basis to keep all of our operations and programs on track. 🌱

While some members of our team have moved on, we are very grateful for our new team. (see above!)



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Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment supports grassroots initiatives that inspire community action to protect the environment, public health and consumers

UPCOMING EVENTS!

NEXT YEAR IS OUR 25TH BIRTHDAY.
We are planning something special to mark it.
Stay tuned for details.



The annual **NEW VOICES ARE RISING** holiday celebration is coming soon!

Contact the Rose foundation office for details!

