

Rose Foundation Proposal to Create and Manage the CVRWQCB Disadvantaged Community SEP Fund

The Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment is a grantmaking public charity based in Oakland, California with extensive experience in managing federal Clean Water Act SEP funds and supporting community-based environmental projects in the Central Valley and throughout California. The Rose Foundation proposes to develop and implement a grantmaking program that will ensure that CVRWQCB SEP funds penetrate deeply into disadvantaged communities while supporting water quality-related projects that fully meet established CVRWQCB SEP criteria.

Allowable Projects:

In addition to water quality benefits, grants decisions will be based upon: 1) benefits to disadvantaged communities from the successful completion of the project; 2) degree of community support demonstrated for the project, and; 3) the degree of community involvement in project activities.

Eligible projects include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Water Quality Monitoring Programs including water quality monitoring of surface and groundwater supplies in disadvantaged communities that do not have a publicly regulated community water system, as well as community-based water quality monitoring designed to aid overall watershed management and water resource decisions. This may include water quality testing of individual or community wells that are sources of domestic water.
- Well Rehabilitation or Replacement including repairing wells that are sources of drinking water and that may provide conduits for pollutants to enter groundwater, or capping and replacing wells that cannot be rehabilitated.
- Watershed Assessment Programs including community participation in watershed planning programs such as IRWMPs, development of model watershed protection policies, and development of local water quality protection plans and policies for disadvantaged community water sources.
- Wetland, Waterbody or Riparian Habitat Conservation or Protection Programs including land acquisition combined with community-based restoration, interpretive or educational programs, and community-based watershed stewardship and riparian restoration programs.
- Pollution Prevention Projects such as community-based outreach to businesses designed to encourage voluntary pollution reduction and water conservation, and public education about local water quality issues and what people can do to improve water quality in disadvantaged communities and other areas.
- Public Awareness Projects including community outreach, education and assistance designed to encourage pollution reduction and/or water conservation to protect disadvantaged community water sources and other water bodies, and development and delivery of watershed-oriented environmental education curriculum.

The following project activities are prohibited:

- No lobbying.
- No litigation.

Outline of Process to Develop and Administer the CVRWQCB Disadvantaged Community SEP Fund

- Prepare Initial Programmatic Guidance Documents: Under the guidance of CVRWCB staff, prepare an overall Programmatic Description and an Initial Project List. The Project List will be drawn from current and recent Rose Foundation grantees in the Central Valley, and each project description will contain: 1) description of proposed project; 2) project budget; 3) timeline for project activities, and; 4) identification of major milestones and deliverables to be achieved with grant funds.
- Develop Initial Project List: As an initial step during this pre-launch phase, the Rose Foundation is inviting a limited number of community-based watershed stewardship organizations in the Central Valley and Sacramento Valley to submit project proposals. Submitting a project proposal for consideration does not in any way guarantee any level of funding whatsoever. Organizations wishing to submit project proposals for consideration for funding during this 2014 pilot phase must submit their projects to the Rose Foundation by 5pm, January 3, 2014. Applicants may be asked for additional information or clarification of answers to specific questions.
- Award Grants: Upon approval to proceed from the CVRWQCB, execution of contract or MOU and receipt of SEP funds, Rose will utilize the funds to award grants to one or more of the projects on the Project List. All grantees must come from the approved Project List; however, the selection of specific grantees from that list shall be at Rose's discretion. In selecting grantees, Rose shall also carefully consider any specific restrictions or other criteria that may be required on a SEP by SEP basis. When possible, Rose shall encourage projects to leverage the SEP funds with other monies, thereby amplifying the impact and community benefits of the project.
- Administer Grant Awards: All grantees will be bound by written grant contracts which obligate the specified deliverables and create oversight and accountability mechanisms including proscribed reports and Rose's right of audit.
- Maintain Project List: Rose will develop and publish an application process through its website that will allow any community-based organization in the Central Valley to submit a water quality-related proposal for consideration of addition to the Project List. From these proposals, Rose will apply eligibility criteria including organizational capacity and geographic balance, and select projects meeting these criteria that have the greatest potential for community involvement and benefits to disadvantaged communities. We will select a range of project sizes from very small all-volunteer projects to large multi-phase projects – this helps ensure that grassroots communities and small non-profits with vital local projects have entrée into the process as well as larger organizations that are capable of managing large-scale projects. Rose will also secure translation services as needed to ensure that non-English speaking communities are able to submit project proposals. At 6 – 12 month intervals, or at other frequencies as determined by the CVRWQCB, Rose shall present a proposed updated Project List for consideration and approval. Once approved by the CVRWQCB, this list would supersede the prior Project List.
- Report to CVRWQCB: At 6- 12 month intervals, or at other frequencies as determined by the CVRWQCB, Rose shall report on grants awarded and grantee accomplishments. Over time, Rose is interested in collaborating with the CVRWQCB to create written or audio-visual reports that describe the community benefits achieved by this program.

Administration of Funds:

- Specific Accounting: All SEP funds shall be kept in restricted internal bookkeeping account dedicated solely to fulfill overall goals of this program. All SEPs funds received and all disbursements shall be accounted for in Rose's annual audit.
- Preservation of Nexus: Each grant will be linked to a specific enabling SEP. In addition to placing a high premium on community involvement and benefits to disadvantaged communities, grant decisions will endeavor to preserve geographic nexus by, as much as practicable, focusing funds towards projects benefitting the area and/or communities harmed by the pollution. (For example, keep SEP funds from the Fresno Office area focused on locally-based San Joaquin River Basin and Tulare Lake Basin projects, keep funds from the Redding area focused on upper Sacramento Basin area projects, etc.)
- Stakeholder Input: Utilize advice of Rose's Grassroots Funding Board and other funding boards for stakeholder input. If flow of SEP funds warrants, develop specific CVRWQCB SEP funding advisory board in YR 2 or later.
- Program Administration Fee: This fee supports all program administration as well as general Rose Foundation overhead including our annual audit.
 - 10% of SEP payments under \$500,000.
 - 8% of SEP payments \$500,000 or greater.
 - 7% of SEP payments \$1.5 million or greater.
 - 6% of SEP payments \$3 million or greater.

For more information about the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment including a description of how our Restitution Fund and Cy Pres Trustee program has been approved by federal courts to handle more than 300 Clean Water Act settlements that have enabled more than \$18 million in community grants, as well as access to our annual audits and IRS tax filings, please visit: www.rosefdn.org.

Contact:

Tim Little
Executive Director
Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment
1970 Broadway, Ste. 600
Oakland, CA 94612
(510)658-0702
tlittle@rosefdn.org
www.rosefdn.org