



# Media Release

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/>

## **Central Valley Water Board Adopts Program to Benefit Disadvantaged Communities**

**For Immediate Release**

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With the aim of helping disadvantaged communities, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board has adopted a resolution establishing a list of 14 pre-approved Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) that may be used to satisfy part of administrative civil liabilities imposed by the Water Board.

The approved projects were selected from a group of 27 applications, and were chosen, at least in part, because of their benefits to disadvantaged communities, their degree of community support, and their degree of community involvement.

This action benefits disadvantaged communities in the Central Valley in such areas as water quality monitoring programs; well rehabilitation or replacement; watershed assessment programs; wetland, water body, or riparian habitat conservation or protection programs; pollution prevention projects, and public awareness projects.

The resolution evolved from the Central Valley Water Board's intention to foster more SEP projects within the Central Valley. The Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment was selected by the Board to act as a third-party oversight group to administer the SEP funds for these projects. The partnership with the Rose Foundation was developed through meetings with environmental justice groups that work within the Central Valley. The Rose Foundation has more than 20 years of experience managing federal Clean Water Act SEP funds, and has awarded 275 grants to community-based projects in the Central Valley. As a condition of the Resolution, the Rose Foundation will provide an annual report to the Central Valley Water Board documenting the projects that have been funded as a result of this program.

"The Board encourages the use of SEPs and believes the use of viable third party arrangements, such as the Rose Foundation, will help promote the use of SEPs during our settlement negotiations of administrative civil penalties," said Pamela Creedon, Executive Officer of the Central Valley Water Board. "The approval of the current list of projects provides a tremendous opportunity to use SEPs that will benefit the environment and disadvantaged communities in the Central Valley."



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The Central Valley Water Board hopes to expand the list of pre-approved projects managed by third parties to include additional projects associated with disadvantaged communities as well as other types of applicable projects that meet the requirements contained in the Statewide Policy for Supplemental Environmental Projects.

This Resolution, including the Rose Foundation's proposal, and the Pre-Approved Projects can be found [here](#).

Additional information about SEPs in the Central Valley Region, including other projects that have been previously approved, can be found [here](#).

The [Central Valley Water Board](#) is a California state agency responsible for the preservation and enhancement of quality in water resources.

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