[Approval of Department of the Environment Environmental Justice Grant Awards]

Resolution approving Department of the Environment Funding Recommendations for Environmental Justice grant awards to eight organizations.

WHEREAS, The Environmental Justice (EJ) program of the Department of the Environment administers a grant program and provides funding annually to non-profit groups;

WHEREAS, the EJ grant program is dedicated to projects to address environmental and community concerns in the Potrero and Bayview Hunters Point communities, with a special focus on reducing electricity demand and the City’s reliance on fossil-fueled power plants, reducing and preventing indoor and outdoor air pollution; and building community capacity to address food security, energy and air quality issues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Commission approves the award of EJ grants, totaling $494,443, to the following organizations:

Alemany Resident Management Corporation $ 60,000
All Hallows Community $ 55,000
Community Alliance for Family Farmers $ 46,226
Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice $ 76,830
GRID Alternatives $100,000
Quesada Gardens Initiative $ 30,000
Preparing the Ground/Willie Brown Jr. School Garden project $ 52,387
San Francisco Food Bank $ 75,000

Commission on the Environment

Approved: 5/22/07
I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted at the Commission on the Environment’s Meeting on May 22, 2007.

Monica Fish, Commission Secretary

VOTE:  Approved 4-0 (2 Absent)

Ayes:  Commissioners Gravanis, Martin, Mok and Vice-President Wald

Noes:  None

Absent: Commissioners King and President Pelosi Jr.
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM
FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GRANT AWARDS - 2007

The Environmental Justice (EJ) program of the Department of the Environment issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) on December 22, 2006. We received fourteen grant proposals on February 15, 2007. An evaluation panel comprised of four members reviewed and scored the 14 written grant proposals. Of the 14 proposals, eight proposals received a score of 60 or higher, based on a scoring system of 100 total points. We invited these eight applicants to oral interviews conducted by a 3-member panel. Based on the evaluation of the written proposals and oral interviews, we recommend that the Commission on the Environment approve the following eight EJ grant awards, totaling $494,443.

Alemany Resident Management Corporation (with Renaissance Parents of Success as fiscal sponsor) proposes to engage local residents from the Bayview and Alemany communities of San Francisco to grow and harvest produce at the Alemany Farm, and distribute the locally-grown produce to low-income families in the Southeast communities. Alemany Farm is comprised of a 4.5-acre site located near Highway 280 that is being cultivated and restored by a team of community volunteers and dedicated staff. This urban farm will be used as an environmental education training site and provide employment to youth and adults primarily from low-income households. This grant will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions relating to the food distribution network by improving food access to nutritious produce and engaging low-income residents in producing locally-grown fresh food. Recommended award: $60,000

All Hallows Community (with Mercy Housing as fiscal sponsor) proposes to install a photovoltaic solar system on their 45-unit apartment complex for seniors and disabled persons. This building is HUD-subsidized and located on Oakdale Avenue in the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood. With EJ grant funding, All Hallows will be able to reduce its utility costs and will devote energy savings to support facility and community services that will benefit its low-income Bayview residents. Recommended award: $55,000

Community Alliance for Family Farmers (CAFF) proposes to help local stores, restaurants and institutions in the Southeast area of San Francisco link with small farmers in Northern California, and promote a growers collaborative to support the growing food security network in the Bayview Hunters Point community. CAFF will also increase public awareness and promote consumption of locally grown fresh foods by conducting outreach and educational services, supporting local community efforts in the Bayview area to bring locally produced, fresh vegetables and fruits to underserved, low-income residents. Recommended award: $45,226
Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice proposes to develop and conduct the “Diesel Emissions and Education Program” (DEEP) in the Bayview Hunters Point community, and will provide public outreach and educational services to community groups and residents, truck drivers, school bus drivers, and operators of diesel fleets in the industrial/production centers of the neighborhood. To reduce idling of diesel vehicles and reduce community exposures to toxic pollutants from diesel trucks, Greenaction will prepare and distribute multilingual fact sheets and educational materials on the health impacts of diesel pollution, and inform drivers of idling policies and regulations. Recommended award: $76,830

GRID Alternatives proposes to install PV solar systems (12kW total capacity) on low-income single-family homes in the Bayview Hunters Point and Potrero neighborhoods, to reduce reliance on the local fossil-fueled power plants. GRID Alternatives conducts the solar installation projects by providing hands-on training to volunteers, including local residents from Bayview, and then leading teams of volunteers on the installation projects. Recommended award: $100,000

Quesada Gardens Initiative (with Renaissance Parents of Success as fiscal sponsor) is proposing to support and expand a community-based garden project on Quesada Avenue in the Bayview neighborhood, and help local residents develop a new urban farming project. Quesada Gardens is an all-volunteer, grassroots neighborhood-led project that has developed a community garden on a street median, and promotes social cohesion, open space and healthy lifestyles through local neighborhood garden projects and community events. Quesada Gardens will collaborate and link with food security/food production projects in the Southeast area, and promote a community-based local food system that will help reduce greenhouse gases. Recommended award: $30,000

Preparing the Ground (San Francisco School Alliance as fiscal sponsor) proposes to develop and operate a school-based garden project, conduct a summer camp and provide weekly environmental education and nutritional classes to the students of Willie Brown Jr. Academy, an elementary school located on Silver Avenue in the Bayview Hunters Point community. The Willie Brown Jr. garden project involves both parents and the students, and offers Bayview families special educational events on nutrition and cooking healthy fresh foods. Recommended award: $52,387

San Francisco Food Bank (SFFB) is proposing to install a photovoltaic (PV) solar system on its 55,000 square foot distribution warehouse located on Pennsylvania Avenue in the Potrero neighborhood. SFFB will use funding from SF Environment to install a 9-kW solar system. This SF Environment-funded system will supplement a larger PV solar system that is currently being designed and installed with funding from PGE and state CEC rebates. The combined solar system, with a total capacity of 44 kW, will help reduce SFFB’s electricity costs that are approximately $8,000 per month. Energy savings will be used to provide food to low-income families. Recommended award: $75,000