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

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

WHEREAS, the EJ grant program is dedicated to projects serving residents of 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 $164,503 to be disbursed during FY 2010-11 and FY 2011-2012, to the following organizations:

Bret Harte Elementary School, Parent Teachers Association $ 50,000
Literacy for Environmental Justice $ 25,740
Southeast Food Access Working Group (fiscal sponsor BVHP Foundation) $ 35,000
Urban Sprouts (fiscal sponsor Neighborhood Parks Council) $ 53,763

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted at the Commission on the Environment’s Meeting on July 27, 2010.

Monica Fish, Commission Secretary

VOTE: Approved (5-0; 1 Absent)
AYES: Commissioners Tuchow, Gravanis, Martin, Mok and Wald
NOES: None
ABSENT: Commissioner King

Commission on the Environment

July 27, 2010
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM
FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GRANT AWARDS (2010-2012)

The Environmental Justice (EJ) program of the San Francisco Department of the Environment (SFE) issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) on January 15, 2010. Ten grant proposals were received on February 22, 2010. An evaluation panel comprised of three members reviewed the 10 grant proposals. Of the 10 grant proposals, 4 received a score of 70 or higher, based on a scoring system of 100 total points. SFE invited the 4 applicants with the strongest proposals to oral interviews. Based on the evaluation of the written proposals and oral interviews, SFE recommends that the Commission on the Environment approve the following EJ grant awards, for a combined total grant amount of $164,503 that will be disbursed over a two-year period (covering FY 2010-11 and FY 2011-12).

Bret Harte Elementary School’s Parents Teacher Association (PTA) - proposes to develop and maintain a gardening project at the school campus that integrates the core curriculum (math, science, language arts) with hands-on science learning and gardening lessons. Students enrolled in K-5th grades participate in the gardening program (approximately 260 students) and learn about the life cycles of plants and animals and nutrition. The garden educator at Bret Harte will work closely with teachers, parents and community to host special educational garden events and promote healthy eating and active living. Recommended award: $50,000 to be allocated over 2 years, with $25,000 for Year 1 and $25,000 for Year 2.

Literacy for Environmental Justice proposes to expand and maintain a native plant nursery, located at the Candlestick State Park in the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood. The nursery is operated by youth interns from Bayview Hunters Point and is a collaborative program between LEJ and the California State Parks Foundation. Recommended award: $25,740 for one year (FY 2010-11)

Urban Sprouts proposes to operate and maintain a school garden and a garden-based environmental leadership program at International Studies Academy in Potrero Hill, to improve youth and their families’ access to nutritious and fresh produce and their knowledge of gardening and local food systems. Educational lessons are provided on a weekly basis during the school year to middle and high school students, and after school gardening programs and workshops are offered to families volunteers. Recommended award: $53,763 to be allocated over 2 years, with $ 26,882 for Year 1 and $26,881 for Year 2.

Southeast Food Access Workgroup (fiscal sponsor Bayview Hunters Point Foundation for Community Improvement) proposes to develop and operate the Food Guardians project, to increase the capacity of local residents and community organizations in Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood to advocate for easy access to healthy food, develop educational experiences that support the growing, healthful preparation and regular consumption of healthy food, and monitor grocery stores in the community. Recommended award: $35,000 for one year (FY 2010-11).