

2019

CALIFORNIA RELEAF ANNUAL REPORT

Friends,

Thank you very much for supporting California's urban forests and making FY2019 a really big year for California ReLeaf – we funded and managed more grants than ever before: 43 California Climate Investments Grants and 41 California Arbor Week Grants! Over \$800,000 in grant dollars were distributed across the state in FY2019.

We are so very grateful for the grants and sponsorships that made our granting programs possible: the U.S. Forest Service, the California Department Forestry and Fire Protection, Pacific Gas & Electric Foundation, Edison International, Southern California Gas, and San Diego Gas & Electric. Almost half of these grants were awarded to community-based organizations new to urban trees, as we have been focusing on building urban forest nonprofit capacity in underserved neighborhoods with local activists. As Fathers & Families of San Joaquin shared,

“This grant has allowed FFSJ to explicitly address conditions in disadvantaged communities by improving the tree canopy in areas where historic and targeted redlining has had a stark and adverse impact

on communities, specifically in the project area where green spaces and tree canopies are lacking.”

These communities have the lowest tree canopy cover and the worst pollution from freeways and trucking routes. Community residents recognize the value that urban forest work brings to their neighborhoods, including human health, community resilience, and social cohesion

This year, ReLeaf also partnered with the California Chapter of the American Planning Association to survey planners on their priorities in order to determine areas of shared values we can address together. Leveraging trees to address the Urban Heat Island Effect topped the list for planners. The results of the survey were shared in an educational guide we distributed this spring. One of our favorite quotes in the guide comes from walkability expert Jeff Speck:

“Put street trees almost everywhere. There is no better use of public funds”

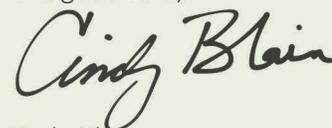
Please check out California ReLeaf's Urban Forest Advocates' Guide to California Planning, which was enthusiastically received by ReLeaf Network member organizations and urban forest leaders.

For the fifth year California ReLeaf has continued its commitment to broadening and reinforcing social equity through diversity, equity, and inclusion trainings. We started strong this year with four *Facilitating for Difference* workshops across the state that discussed dominant culture expectations as well as facilitating community meetings. Continuing this work were the *Green Gentrification* and *Ensuring All Voices are Heard* presentations, available on our website.

Looking ahead to 2020, our plans include an intentional and inclusive Leadership Development program for the next generation of urban forest nonprofit professionals, to prepare for the current leaders heading to retirement... and the beach.

We hope you are proud to know the impact your support is having throughout the state. **Thank you for partnering with us to preserve, protect, and enhance California's Urban Forests!**

Take good care,



Cindy Blain
Executive Director



Statewide Impact

California ReLeaf works with nonprofits across the state, ranging from small start-ups new to planting trees to the larger, more established organizations. Our network connects these groups for sharing of resources, collaboration, and peer-to-peer learning.

❄️ Active 2019 California ReLeaf Network Members

- Active Cap & Trade Grants in FY2019
 - Urban Forest Management (2018 - 2022)
 - Forest Improvement (2017 - 2020)
 - Social Equity (2016 - 2019)
 - Green Innovation (2016 - 2019)

▲ 2019 Arbor Week Grantees



To see a list of our over 100 Network Members, visit www.californiareleaf.org/network

Empowering grassroots efforts and building strategic partnerships...

161,700
VOLUNTEER HOURS
REPORTED BY THE NETWORK



August
ReLeaf Board meeting at the California Endowment in Sacramento



September

Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco, one of three events this year with a global audience



November

Cindy Blain, Haydi Danielson, & Miranda Hutton present at the World Forum on Urban Forests in Mantova, Italy

"This project will affect future urban forestry efforts in the community by proving that disadvantaged communities can manage and maintain fruit and shade trees just as well as affluent communities."
-FATHERS & FAMILIES OF SAN JOAQUIN, STOCKTON, CA

19
WEBINARS & WORKSHOPS



"After years of wanting to beautify and add shade to our public spaces, we were pleased to discover a supportive partner in California ReLeaf. With their advice, we were able to do everything from effectively select the best species for our environment to engage different key community leaders. Their responsiveness helped us adapt the project as new opportunities arose. In fact, we were able to expand our project and plant even more trees than we originally anticipated."
-AVENAL HISTORIC SOCIETY AVENAL, CA



May

The Annual Network Retreat in Los Angeles, including sessions on urban planning, irrigation, tree tracking tools, and inclusion, and honoring two tree champions



63,398
TREES PLANTED
REPORTED BY THE NETWORK



43
CAP & TRADE GRANTS
THE MOST EVER FOR CALIFORNIA RELEAF

Amigos de los Rios

41
ARBOR WEEK GRANTS

March
Benicia Tree Foundation's planting day kicks off Arbor Week celebrations across the state, focusing on engaging schools, kids, and local leaders.



"California ReLeaf has made a big impact on countless communities throughout the state and established themselves as a respected leader in urban forestry and greening."
-JAYMEE GO PRIORITY STRATEGIES SACRAMENTO, CA



April

Site visit with Avenal Historic Society

New ReLeaf staff position hired, making us a team of five

April

April
Arbor Week Poster Contest winners are announced



Network members form a communications committee to collaborate on statewide messaging

October

July 2018
"Facilitating for Difference" training with José González, marks the first of four Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion workshops in FY2019



ReLeaf moderates a green gentrification panel at the Partners in Community Forestry Conference

November



November

People and Trees site visit in Irvine, one of 30 site visits by our team in FY2019

6
NEW NETWORK MEMBERS

30
SITE VISITS
BY CALIFORNIA RELEAF STAFF

"One of the children said, now that he knows how to plant trees, he's going to plant trees all over the world. Several of the residents after seeing the tree planted in the community said it lifted their spirits and asked when more will be planted down street, because they want some in front of their houses. The statement that moved me the most was the young girl in a wheelchair that said planting a tree was the best fun she had ever. And then she cried. Her way of saying, 'Thanks for letting me help.'"
-SECOND CHANCES A PLACE FOR HOPE SAN BERNARDINO, CA

ReLeaf begins advocating for environmental justice advance payment bill AB 1252 (Rivas)

January



February
ReLeaf hosts two workshops in San Bernardino County for incubating start-up nonprofits interested in planting trees

March
Site visit with Earth Team in Richmond



June
California ReLeaf Spanish website launched

June

\$1M from CAL FIRE granted for "Relief through ReLeaf" grants program

June
Planning for Urban Trees Guide and webpage released



"This planning guide is awesome and incredibly valuable as a teaching tool! Thank you!"
-SUSAN ROSENBERG FOUNDER AND BOARD MEMBER, CANOPY PALO ALTO, CA

FY2020 CA STATE BUDGET:
\$15M URBAN FORESTS
\$30M URBAN GREENING

Gov. Newsom signs the new state budget, including urban forest funding advocated by California ReLeaf

June 2019

Our Work

California ReLeaf supports healthy urban forests through:



GRANTS
Seeking and providing grants to local groups to plant and care for trees in their communities.



NETWORK
Convening a Network of urban forest nonprofits for sharing best practices and peer-to-peer learning.



ADVOCACY
Speaking for trees in state legislation and providing resources for community groups to find their voices.



OUTREACH & EDUCATION
Sharing resources and research to support healthy urban forests through local activism.



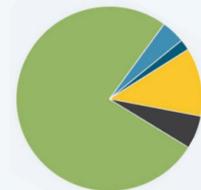
ARBOR WEEK
Organizing California's Arbor Week celebration, including youth poster/video contests and an entry-level grants program.



MANAGEMENT
Core activities central to sustaining and strengthening all of California ReLeaf's operations and programs.

FY2019 Expenses:

\$1,361,869



76% GRANTS
4% NETWORK
2% ADVOCACY
12% OUTREACH & ED
6% MANAGEMENT

(Arbor Week expenses are included in Grants and Education categories.)

...that preserve, protect, and enhance California's urban forests



Earth Team

2019 Supporters

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- Mark Applebaum*
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CORPORATE DONORS

- Alliance for Community Trees
- AmazonSmile Foundation*
- Arbor Day Foundation
- Beneficial State Bank
- Boething Treeland Farms*
- California Endowment
- California Urban Forests Council
- Davey Resource Group - Sacramento*
- Edison International
- Microsoft
- Nonprofits' Insurance Alliance of CA*
- Northrop Grumman
- PG&E Foundation
- San Diego Gas & Electric
- Sierra Health Foundation
- SoCalGas
- Studio MLA
- Terracycle US, LLC
- The Davey Tree Expert Company
- The Nature Conservancy
- Urban Ecos
- West Coast Arborists*



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- Amelia Oliver**
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Policy & Education Strategy Program Manager

*New to the ReLeaf team

*Repeat donors who gave in FY17, FY18, and FY19. Thank you for your continued support!