



California Arbor Week 2019

Sponsored by Pacific Gas & Electric

CALIFORNIA RELEAF FINAL REPORT
JANUARY 2020



60
EVENTS

1481
ATTENDEES

2724
VOLUNTEER HOURS

303
TREES PLANTED

1023
CHILDREN ENGAGED

78
SCHOOLS INVOLVED

Numbers represent PG&E-sponsored events only

WITH 95% OF THE POPULATION NOW LIVING IN URBAN AREAS, urban trees and green space are critical to the health and well-being of Californians. Climate change threatens natural disasters, higher urban temperatures, and decreased quality of life. Protecting our urban forests is vital to community resilience. Fostering community knowledge, appreciation, and advocacy at the local level is a vital to protecting our urban forests.

The California Arbor Week Grant Program is an important gateway to urban forest activism, motivating new community groups to plant trees in their neighborhoods, while the resulting co-benefits then inspire a new wave of “tree folks”. Co-benefits include visible, tangible results, empowerment to act locally on climate change, and deeper community connection. Program sponsorship funds are directly invested in small communities throughout the state. PG&E’s support made deeper outreach possible in San Bernardino and the High Desert.

PG&E’s 2019 funding covered the cost of the trees, supplies, signage, handouts, two incubator workshops, as well as some of the organizing expenses. This sponsored 252 trees planted across 27 events! Grantees passed along many stories and statistics from their events, highlights of which are shared here.

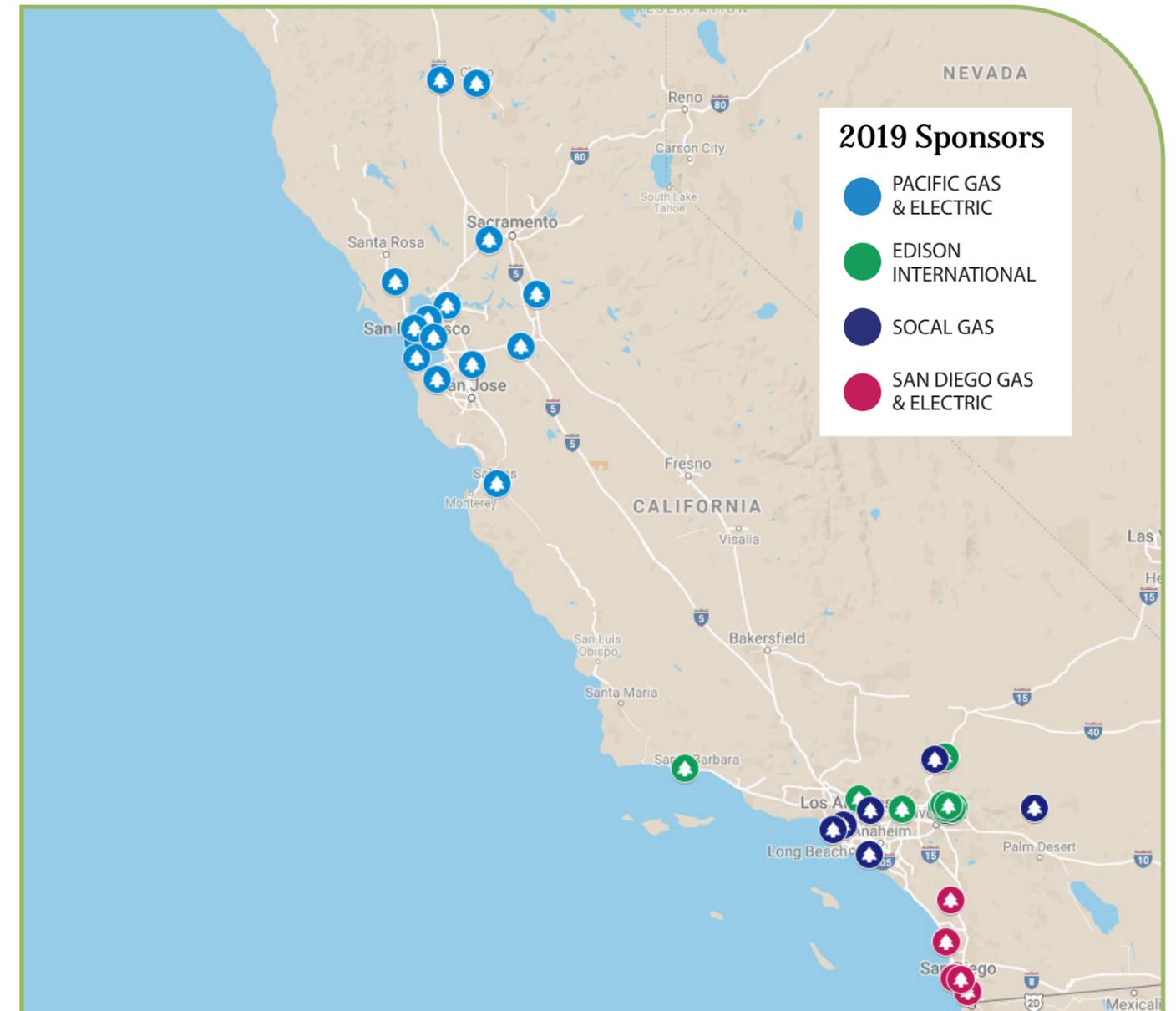
“It made me incredibly happy to see the students which I’ve shared classes with, all join together in a group effort.”

– XAVIER GOMEZ,
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT



South San Francisco High School

Cover photos– Left: Climate Action Now!; Top Right: Benicia Tree Foundation; Bottom Right: Tree Davis



2019 Sponsors

- PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC
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- SOCAL GAS
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2019 PG&E Grantees

1. BD Lien Guo Foundation	Sunol	10. Reed Nature Preserve	Tiburon
2. Benicia Tree Foundation	Benicia	11. South San Francisco High School PTA	San Francisco
3. Chico Tree Advocates / Butte Environmental Council	Chico	12. Sustainable Salinas	Salinas
4. City Trees	Redwood City	13. Tracy Tree Foundation	Tracy
5. Climate Action Now!	San Francisco	14. Tree Davis	Davis, Woodland, West Sacramento
6. Common Vision	East Bay	15. Tree Lodi	Lodi
7. Community Grows	San Francisco	16. Urban Releaf & Girls in Nature	Oakland
8. Paradise Roots	Orland	17. Urban Transformation & Calle 23	Richmond
9. Petaluma Tree Advisory Committee	Petaluma		



Petaluma Tree Advisory Committee

▲ “On Saturday April 13 We planted 5 large redwood trees next to the new Field of Miracles (Ghilotti Park) which was dedicated the following day on Sunday April 14. Rotary sponsored the event and were busy finishing the BBQ facility getting ready for the dedication while Matt Corey and John Shribbs of the Petaluma Tree Advisory Committee led the planting. We were assisted by 2 city employees, Scott and Vince, who prepared the area, brought in wood chips, and applied the water bags at the end. Cub Scout Troop 8 showed up in force and did most of the work.”

–PETALUMA TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

► “We had very positive reactions to the planting! One of the best parts of our program is getting local residents to really see & connect with the trees they see everyday in the landscape. We got a lovely quote from a first time planter with CityTrees, telling us, ‘Every time I walk around Redwood City I will want to fix all of the stakes supporting the trees.’ CityTrees is very proud that we’re educating our fellow community members on healthy tree planting and maintenance practices!”

–CITY TREES



City Trees, Redwood City



Tree Davis

Education

The primary goal of Arbor Week celebrations is education. Residents and schoolchildren learn why trees are so incredibly important in our cities and neighborhoods, how to plant and care for trees, how time spent in green spaces is good for their health and well-being, as well as what they can do to support their communities with trees.

Most Arbor Week events were done in collaboration with local schools, providing students the opportunity to get their hands dirty, learn the benefits of trees, feel pride in their work, and enjoy green spaces in their campuses and communities for years to come.

Arbor Week celebrations also included the annual Arbor Week Poster Contest, co-sponsored this year by Northrop Gunman. The contest fostered creativity and prompted kids to think about planting trees for their futures.



Arbor Week Poster Contest:
5th Grade winner

“One highlight was the degree of local engagement from the neighborhood where we were planting. Many of the residents receiving a tree in their front yard participated in planting, providing excellent community building as well as the opportunity to discuss longer-term tree care. We provided all residents with a watering bucket and literature on proper watering and tree care. Many of those who attended signed up for subsequent events, as they said they really internalized the value of trees in their community.”

–TREE DAVIS

Conclusion

We believe everyone should be planting and caring for the trees in their neighborhood.

Arbor Week celebrations and planting events nurture a love of trees in our youngest community members, connect California teenagers to volunteerism and community engagement, provide parents an opportunity to learn and work side-by-side with their kids, and give our most veteran tree advocates the space to pass on their knowledge and passion to future generations. All of this helps ensure thriving urban forests and healthy, engaged communities for years to come.

While the program was very successful overall, challenges included the homeless population adversely affecting tree planting in public parks and the fact that as an “incubator” program, not all of the groups were successful. This is to be expected in when funding start-up organizations, and helps provide lessons on how we can even better support them in future years.

California ReLeaf is very grateful for the 2019 sponsorship of PG&E International. We look forward to future partnerships for California Arbor Week celebrations and educational events. **Together we are making California communities greener, healthier, and more resilient.**

“After several months of planning, preparations and community outreach and buy-in, Climate Action Now! -partnering with our long-time collaborators, the Northridge Cooperative Community Garden- worked together to plant twelve new street trees. Located at the top of Hudson Avenue, the tree basins had been laying empty for nearly a decade. After site walks and discussion, the first two streets were chosen to “green” with this collaboration. Young people and elders supported the project, each bringing their own muscle, effort and unique level of support to cultivate great successes last weekend.”

– CLIMATE ACTION NOW!



Empowering grassroots efforts and building strategic partnerships that preserve, protect and enhance California's urban and community forests.

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