



California Arbor Week 2019

Sponsored by Sempra Energy Utilities

CALIFORNIA RELEAF FINAL REPORT
DECEMBER 2019





Numbers represent 10 of 11 organizations reporting

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.

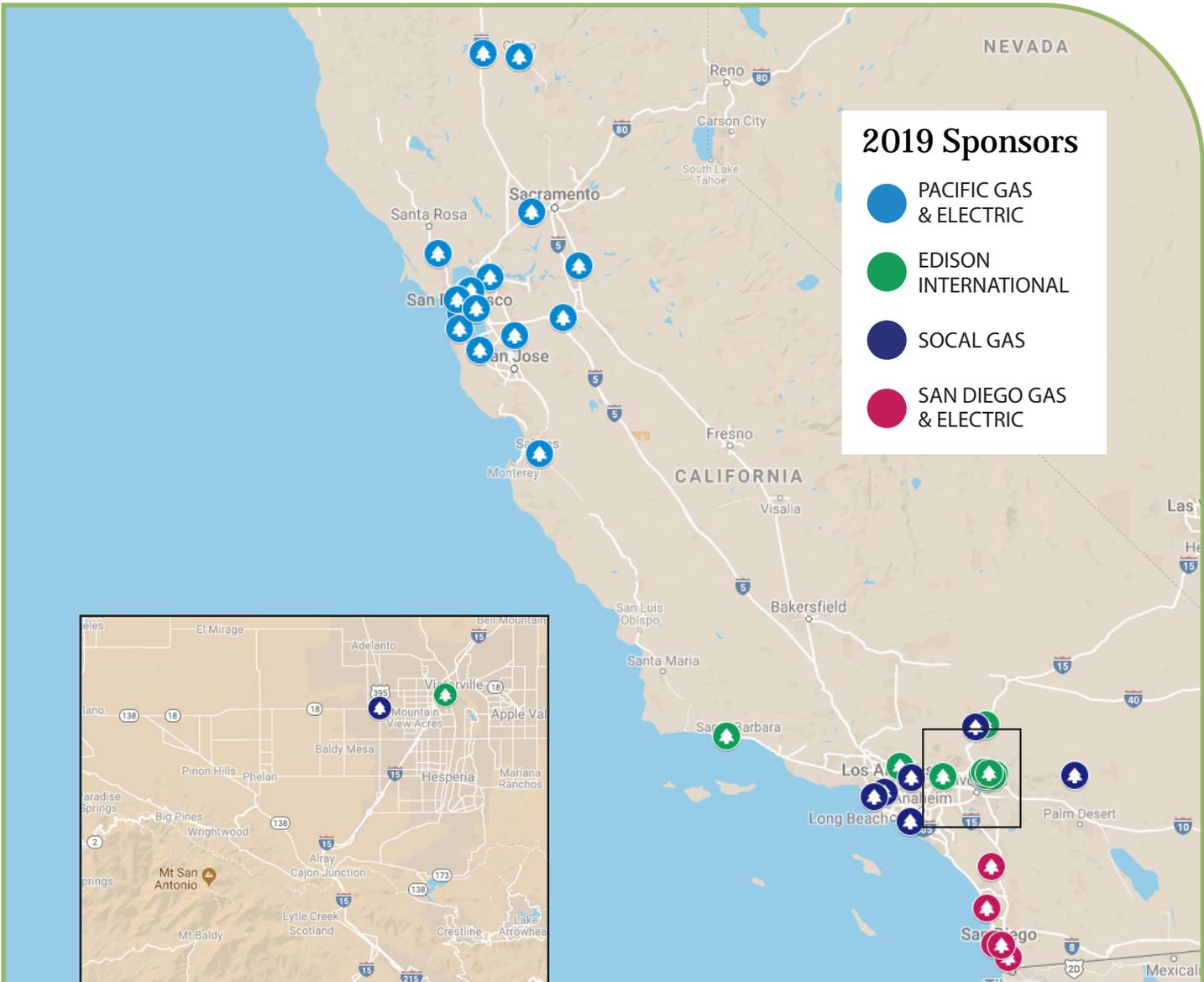
The California Arbor Week Grant Program is an important gateway to urban forest activism, motivating new community groups to plant trees in their neighborhoods, while the resulting co-benefits then inspire a new wave of “tree folks”. Co-benefits include visible, tangible results, empowerment to act locally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

Sempra Energy Utilities’ (SoCalGas and San Diego Gas & Electric) 2019 funding covered the cost of the trees, supplies, signage, handouts, as well as some of the organizing expenses. This sponsored 157 trees planted across 16 events and counting! Grantees passed along many stories and statistics from their events, highlights of which are shared here.

“Before this event, most students involved had not thought about what having trees means to the community, nor the work that goes into planting them. Many students live close to the street and parks where the trees were planted and have made commitments to check on them to ensure they survive. I feel this gives them a sense of responsibility and creates a connection beyond the event. It was a success in more ways than intended and I would be happy to continue this for years to come.”

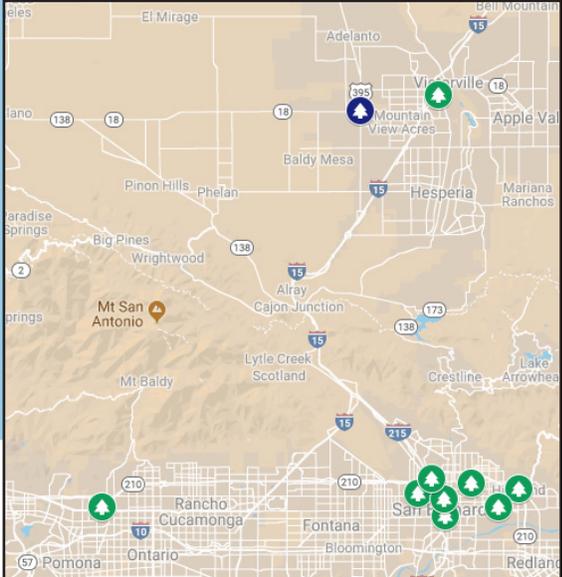
– SUSAN ADACHI, AMBASSADOR CLUB ADVISOR, AV LEARNING ACADEMY

Cover photos– Left: Balboa Park Conservancy; Top Right: Lumbercycle; Bottom Right: OneWay Outreach



2019 Sponsors

- PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC
- EDISON INTERNATIONAL
- SOCAL GAS
- SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC



2019 Sempra Grantees

1. Arroyo High School & US Green Building Council	El Monte
2. AV Learning Academy	Adelanto
3. Balboa Park Conservancy	San Diego
4. Community Services Unlimited	Los Angeles
5. Forest Resiliency Program, LumberCycle	San Diego
6. Huntington Beach Tree Society	Huntington Beach
7. Molding Hearts	Yucca Valley
8. OneWay Outreach	Los Angeles
9. Save Our Forest	Fallbrook
10. Tree San Diego	San Diego
11. Urban Conservation Corps of San Diego County	Chula Vista

“I named my tree Frankie and I am excited to see him grow”

– SWEETWATER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, NATIONAL CITY (LUMBERCYCLE EVENT)



Balboa Park Conservancy

▲ *“Plant It Forward made urban forestry compelling and accessible for diverse audiences. The Conservancy provided community members with a comprehensive experience, designed to create a deeper sense of connection to Balboa Park (and it’s trees). Neighbors and new friends shared their appreciation for work being done, and for the experiences and education provided to the community for free.”*

-BALBOA PARK CONSERVANCY

▶ *“The event was special because the trees provided tangible improvements to a school campus in obvious need of more trees. There were no trees in the two locations in which we placed the trees. It was even more special because the students had several opportunities to interact with knowledgeable adults. These interactions included with Assembly Woman Gonzalez, a true tree advocate, CAL FIRE Urban Forester Lynnette Short — a true expert on how to plant and care for trees in our climate — and knowledgeable volunteers who coached the student tree planting teams. School administrators were very enthusiastic and want to build an ongoing relationship with Lumbercycle. The sense of accomplishment of the student teams when they each finished planting their tree was palpable.*

**-FOREST RESILIENCY PROGRAM,
LUMBERCYCLE**



Forest Resiliency Program



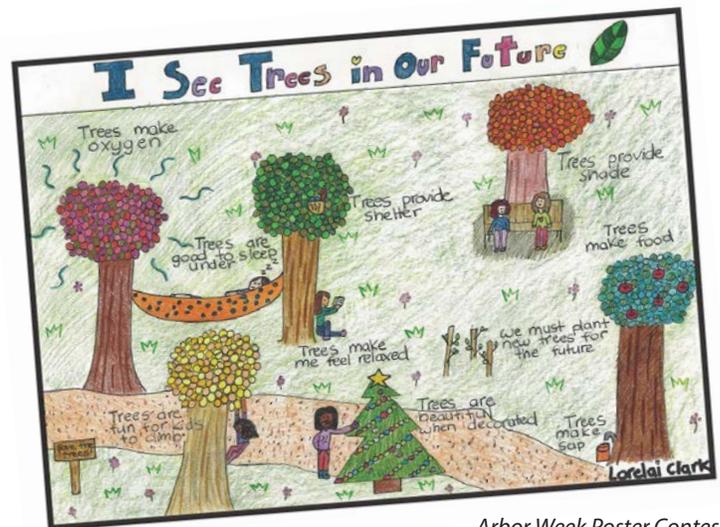
Forest Resiliency Program

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

“The Arbor Day tree planting event brought together about 50 people to the three sites, everyone learning something about urban forestry. This event was unique as it included many people from different walks of life and ages to help with the planting, including some people who had never planted a tree before. During the process, it was nice to speak with those learning about the tree types and the appropriate way to plant and care for a tree.”

– URBAN CORPS OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

▶ *“Our small 4th grade students from Carden Conservatory each gave some type of information about the importance of trees before the planting began. Their teacher said they had been practicing for weeks on their talks and that is why they seemed so confident.*

“One of the teachers said this event was the best one they had ever attended. City Council woman Kim Carr gave thanks to all of us for making our community better.

–HUNTINGTON BEACH TREE SOCIETY



Huntington Beach Tree Society

▶ *“One of the most enlightening moments was seeing the look on the youth faces at the end of the ceremony when Mr. Williams explained that thirty years from now the youth will be able to pass the college and see the trees and explain to their children, grandchildren and family members how they took place in this groundbreaking ceremony and helped plant the trees.”*

–ONEWAY OUTREACH



OneWay Outreach

▶ *“A presentation was made regarding the grant received from California ReLeaf. Presentation included thanking sponsor San Diego Gas and Electric, and those present were given a brief background of Urban Forestry funding in California.*

Roger Boddaert, tree activist and member of the California Oak Foundation spoke about the importance of trees in general, the facts regarding tree loss in California, and the importance of continuing to plant trees for their benefits to our environment. A naming contest for each of the new trees was held and followed with the article ‘A Special Day for Special Names.’”

–SAVE OUR FORESTS



Save Our Forests

NEWS RELEASE

Office of Communications



Public Information Specialist,
296

April 11, 2019

CITY OF CHULA VISTA TO CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY ON APRIL 26

"A poem lovely as a tree." This famous line from the poem, "Tree" illustrates the efforts in the City of Chula Vista on Arbor Day, Friday, April 26, 2019, at 6:30 p.m., trees will be planted at Greg Rogers Park, Orange Avenue and Live Oak Park as part of the City's commitment to being a Tree City USA and achieving its environmental goals.

The City of Chula Vista County received a \$2,000 grant from California ReLeaf in support of this event this year.

To sign up, please email City Forester Sam Oludunfe by email at soludunfe@chulavista.gov or call (619) 397-6006. Each tree will be planted with a sign. Volunteers are asked to bring their own work gloves and water. Children are encouraged to participate. All volunteers will meet at 6:30 p.m. at 19 Oleander Avenue.

Arbor Day, began on April 1, 1872, with an estimated one million trees planted. Since then, it is celebrated in the United States each year on the same day. Many states, including California, observe the holiday as a time best suited

for tree planting. Trees are valuable economic assets helping in energy conservation, improving air quality, protecting water resources, providing shade, and beautifying neighborhoods.

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Jackie Heyneman to speak about Fallbrook trees

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Last updated 4/29/2019 at 8:58am



Jackie Heyneman will present an Arbor Day program, April 30, at Fallbrook Library.

FALLBROOK – Jackie Heyneman, longtime Fallbrook resident and founder of Save Our Forest, will talk about planting and maintaining the trees in Fallbrook in honor of Arbor Day. The talk will be held Tuesday, April 30, at 6:30 p.m. in the community room at Fallbrook Library.

Heyneman has spearheaded volunteer efforts to reforest Fallbrook. She moved to Fallbrook in 1971 with her husband when he retired from the Navy.

Save Our Forest was started in 1993 within the Fallbrook Land Conservancy. Their first project was to plant 163 oak trees in Live Oak Park and surrounding roads.

Since then, the committee has brought in over \$250,000 in grants to enhance the community. Her bands of volunteers work twice a month to maintain the trees.

The talk is jointly sponsored by the Fallbrook Land Conservancy and Fallbrook Climate Action Team. Interested persons are welcome. For more information, visit their respective webpages at

<http://www.fallbrooklandconservancy.org> and <http://www.fallbrookclimateactionteam.org>.

Submitted by Fallbrook Land Conservancy.

Recognition

Tree planting events were advertised across the state, spreading the word about Arbor Week activities. We hope this increasing awareness will spur even more public participation as we continue growing Arbor Week in years come.

SoCalGas and San Diego Gas & Electric's sponsorships were also widely shared. All grantees spoke about the sponsor utility support during the events, and in some cases representatives were in attendance. Company names and logos were included on event fliers, social media posts, newspaper articles, and educational materials. This representation and recognition demonstrated the utility's commitment to these communities.

SoCalGas and San Diego Gas & Electric were also recognized as sponsors at the California ReLeaf Network Retreat, with their name and logo featured on the retreat agenda packet, social media posts, and presentation slides. This retreat welcomed urban forest nonprofits from throughout the state for networking and education, and we were delighted to share sponsor support!

INVESTING IN TREES
A new, climate appropriate tree requires just 5 gallons of water per week, totaling 260 gallons per year.
WHAT ELSE USES 260 GALLONS?

- 4 PROFESSIONAL CAR WASHES
- 8 LOADS OF LAUNDRY
- 42 LOADS OF DISHES
- 10 TEN-MINUTE SHOWERS

Learn more about the benefits of investing in urban trees at TREESANDIEGO.ORG

RELEAF
SCoCalGas
SDGE

SCAN TO LEARN MORE!

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 better support them in future years.

California ReLeaf is very grateful for the 2019 sponsorship of SoCalGas and San Diego Gas & Electric. 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.**



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

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