



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 20, 2016 CONTACT: Sarah Zahedi 415.749.4900

## Air District announces 2016 recipients of James Cary Smith Community Grant Program Awards

The program will fund 11 projects to reduce air pollution and protect public health

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District today announced the recipients of the 2016 *James Cary Smith Community Grant Program* awards.

The Air District used available funding to back 11 community-based partnership projects within the nine-county Bay Area region for a total of \$261,274. The projects will increase awareness and engagement about air quality issues and initiate ways to reduce air pollution.

"Local solutions are among the many tools that help us better understand and reduce air pollution in our communities," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. "These community grants will further the efforts of Bay Area organizations that are looking at creative approaches to bring clean air to our neighborhoods."

Ten of the selected projects directly involve Bay Area communities, identified through the District's Community Air Risk Evaluation, or CARE program, that experience concentrated air pollution and related public health effects. One of the selected projects targets a non-CARE community adjacent to major freeways. All of the projects either partner with a community-based organization—<u>Girls Inc., Rich City Rides</u>, <u>Hunters Point Family</u>, <u>La Clínica de la Raza</u>, <u>Inc.</u>—or with one of 18 local high schools.

The James Cary Smith Community Grant Program was initiated to allow the Air District to work with local communities on projects to reduce air pollution. The program is named after the former community outreach manager who helmed the agency's initial pilot community grant program in 2009-10. Mr. Smith passed away in 2015 from ALS.

The Grant program solicited applicants from within the Air District's nine-county jurisdiction including Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, as well as southern Sonoma County and southwestern Solano County.

The 2016 award winners include:

- Breathe California of the Bay Area
- Breathe California Golden Gate Public Health Partnership
- <u>Center for Climate Protection</u>
- <u>Cool the Earth</u>

Continued...Air District Announces 2016 recipients...

- Earth Team
- Hunters Point Family
- La Clínica de La Raza, Inc.
- <u>Rails-to-Trails Conservancy</u>
- Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment
- San Francisco Bicycle Coalition Education Fund
- <u>Strategic Energy Innovations</u>

To learn more about the winning projects, visit: <u>http://bit.ly/1OGfTmb</u>.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (<u>www.baaqmd.gov</u>) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

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