



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SLV Water District awards education grants to local teachers & non-profits

The SLV Water District has awarded grants to four local teachers and two non-profits, as part of the district's Education Grant Program, which aims to enhance the understanding and environmental health of the San Lorenzo River watershed.

Allison Birkhead, a teacher at San Lorenzo Valley High School's Watershed Academy, received a grant of \$1,718 for her proposal, "Water Quality Testing for Watershed Studies." Funds will be used to purchase lab testing equipment, as students learn concepts of chemistry and lab techniques, through water quality testing.

Jane Orbuch, who also teaches at San Lorenzo Valley High School's Watershed Academy, was awarded \$2,500 for her proposal, "Wireless Weather Station for Watershed Studies." Funds will be used to purchase a weather station, so that students can monitor real-time weather data collection from the classroom, as part of learning environmental concepts.

Erin Mongiello and Tina Andes, both teachers at San Lorenzo Valley Middle School, were awarded \$2,500 for their joint proposal, "Exploring Watersheds." Funds will be used to purchase classroom supplies for a sixth grade watershed curriculum, and topographic maps for field and classroom work.

Two local non-profits also received awards. The Monterey Bay Master Gardeners received \$2,500 to help fund its annual "Smart Gardening Faire," a public education event that focuses on landscaping to conserve water, use of native plants, and reduction of pesticide/herbicides. The Faire will be held June 23, 2007 at Sky Park in Scotts Valley.

The Valley Women's Club was awarded \$2,500 for their proposal "Runoff to the River." Funds will be used to design, print, and distribute a public informational brochure on non-point source pollution.

Earlier this year, the SLV Water District awarded Science Fair project grants of up to \$200 to four local high school students. Winners were Emma Stokes and Ruth Talbot, for their project "The Pollutant Levels in the San Lorenzo River"; Zack Seftel, for his project "Bacterial Pollution at the San Lorenzo River and Pacific Ocean Conflux;" and Cameron Kirby, for his project "The Effect of Residential Herbicides on Freshwater Invertebrates of the San Lorenzo River.

Education grant proposals were evaluated and recommended for funding by the SLV Water District's Educational Grant Advisory Commission. The SLV Water District Board unanimously approved the awards on May 17, 2007.

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