



**CENTER ON RACE, POVERTY & THE ENVIRONMENT**

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March 16, 2014

To whom it may concern:

The Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment (CRPE) is writing in support of the Rose Foundation's proposal to assist the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board in disbursing supplemental environmental project funds to benefit disadvantaged communities.

CRPE is a non-profit environmental justice organization with offices in San Francisco and Delano, California. For the last 25 years, we have worked with low income communities and communities of color in the San Joaquin Valley Counties of Kern, Kings, and Tulare Counties. Several of the communities we work with lack access to safe affordable water.

We appreciate that the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board has decided to direct Supplemental Environmental Impact (SEP) funds to disadvantaged communities. This will have tremendous benefits for both clean water and community vitality in some of California's most heavily-impacted and underserved communities.

The Rose Foundation is a good partner for the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board because the Rose Foundation has a long track record of working with community groups in the Central Valley. We have worked closely with the Rose Foundation as part of the Kern County Air Mitigation Fund. Through this fund, the Rose Foundation with input from a Valley based advisory committee, directs settlement funds towards projects in Kern County which demonstrate concrete emission reductions. We trust the Rose Foundation and we know that the Rose Foundation will give communities in need a fair chance to apply for these SEP funds.

Thank you for considering this comment.

Sincerely,

Caroline Farrell  
Executive Director