

District Education Program Grants 2004 – 2011

Each year since 2004, the District has budgeted \$17,500 to fund education grants that advance the mission of the District's education program. After careful review and evaluation by the Education Advisory Commission, and approval by the full board, the following grants have been awarded:

Year	Project Title	Description	Grantee	Award amount
2011	"Environmental Monitoring Course"	This course gives 10-15 SLV High School juniors & seniors an opportunity to apply their skills in science, math, English & aquaculture, working on a one-year long field project, with a professional mentor in the field. Projects are displayed at SCC Science Fair, Monterey Bay Sanctuary Symposium and Environmental Monitoring Symposium.	Jane Orbuch, science teacher, San Lorenzo Valley High School, Watershed Academy	3,000.00
	"Camp KA-POW"	HOWL Science Camp exposes children to the San Lorenzo River thru outdoor exploration; this project enables HOWL to offer two sessions of summer camp with 4 scholarships per session. At camp, children are engaged in trash removal, river hikes, & educating the community about the health and conservation of the SLR.	HOWL Science Program	2,900.00
	"Map Sandhills Plants at Olympia Watershed"	Collect baseline data thru survey of special-status plant species on District-owned Olympia Watershed property, compile GPS data and provide to District GIS Tech for mapping; compile identification handbook for District staff to be aware of "hot spots"	Suzanne Schettler	2,850.00

	“Watershed Nature Walks”	Create a series of six watershed nature walks, free & open to the public; walks to be led by local experts; this year's experts include Chris Berry, SCWD water resource manager; Frank Perry, geologist; Kristsen Kittleson, county fisheries biologist; 2 UCSC grad students involved in the puma project; Jodi McGraw, sandhills expert	Carol Carson	2,300.00
	“Olympia Wellfield Invasive Species Mapping Project”	Applicant to map, using GPS, invasive plant species impacting rare sand hills habitat at Olympia Wellfield (including French broom, Portuguese broom, acacia, eucalyptus, black locust, yellow starthistle, Italian thistle, milk thistle & fennel); applicant to provide management plan for District to control each species.	Ken Moore	1,950.00
	“Olympia Wellfield Education and Broom Control Program”	Applicant to lead & organize a volunteer program to facilitate the removal of French and Portuguese broom at Olympia Wellfield while providing comprehensive education to participants about the importance of this site's habitat & its role as key source of water for the San Lorenzo Valley.	Ken Moore	2,700.00

	“The Western Pond Turtles of Santa Cruz County”	20 minute educational video to profile Western Pond turtles of SLR Watershed and Santa Cruz County, with brief overview of habitat, life cycle, & new findings re: this unique population. Video to highlight threats to their survival & management efforts to promote the long-term welfare of turtles and their habitat.	Jordan Plotsky	1,800.00
2011 total				17,500.00
2010	“Environmental Monitoring Course”	This course gives 10-15 SLV High School juniors & seniors an opportunity to apply their skills in science, math, English & aquaculture, working on a one-year long field project, with a professional mentor in the field. Projects are displayed at SCC Science Fair, Monterey Bay Sanctuary Symposium and Environmental Monitoring Symposium.	Jane Orbuch, science teacher, San Lorenzo Valley High School, Watershed Academy	3,000.00
	“Wetland Pond Monitoring”	Part of the SLV High School’s watershed academy, this project monitors the wetland pond near the school’s aquaculture facility. The pond was developed to successfully treat campus sewage. Water will be tested for pollutants such as nitrates, and for pH and temperature.	Terry Umstead, aquaculture teacher, San Lorenzo Valley High School, Watershed Academy	2,500.00

	<p>“San Lorenzo River Water Temperature Record Project”</p>	<p>Project to analyze and format stream temperature data collected in 2005-2006 by SLVHS students under direction of fisheries biologist Don Alley, research additional data collected by City of Santa Cruz; prepare sampling maps; report to be written and sent to State Water Quality Control Board.</p>	<p>Lompico Watershed Conservancy</p>	<p>2,500.00</p>
	<p>“Riparian Corridor Wood Survey within SLVWD Lands along Zayante Creek, 2010”</p>	<p>Fisheries biologist to mentor one or more SLV High School Watershed Academy students in a project to survey large wood on ~ 1 mile of Zayante Creek riparian corridor adjoining District-owned land. Results will be compared to other surveys on other creeks that used the same methods. Recommendations to be made to improve fish habitat conditions. Article to be written for publication in local papers to emphasize to public the importance of retaining instream wood</p>	<p>D.W. Alley & Associates</p>	<p>3,000.00</p>
	<p>“Preserve and Protect: Helping the Wildlife of Our Watershed”</p>	<p>Local children to learn about the importance of a clean, healthy river through the day camp experience. Campers will include research causes of pollution in Fall Creek using GPS units to track animals, perform water quality testing, pick up trash, and create journals & posters to show what they learned. Leader will provide eight 75-90 minute class visits.</p>	<p>HOWL Science Program 501 c(3)</p>	<p>2,974.00</p>

	“Watershed Nature Walks”	This project organizes a series of six Watershed Nature Walks, free & open to the public, accessible to all ages and physical abilities. Well known guides, experts in their fields, will lead the 2+ hour walks, which will occur regularly on Saturday mornings. Grantee to write six promotional pieces, prior to each walk, in the Press Banner.	Carol Carson	2,300.00
	“Walking in the Watershed: Kindergarten - 5th Grade Field Trips & Cross-Curricular Watershed”	Grantee to lead six watershed field trips to Fall Creek State Park, one trip for each grade level K-5 at SLV Elementary. Instruction to include 6 hours of lessons & experiential learning per class, serving a total of 150-175 students in fall 2010. Project aims to strengthen the connection between child and watershed through discovery-based and teacher-directed curricula.	Kristen M. VanKlootwyk, certificated teacher	2,496.00
	“6th Grade Labs and Exploring Watersheds”	Project to help turn middle school classrooms into science laboratories by funding purchase of lab equipment used in the two-year- old Exploring Watershed Program for sixth grade students. Promotes classroom and field research to increase student knowledge of conserving, improving, protecting, and sustaining watershed functions and values.	San Lorenzo Valley Middle School	2,481.00
2010 total				21,251.00

2009	"Bean Zayante Creek Initiative Phase I"	Survey/mapping by 6th/7th grade students of woody material in stream corridors of Bean & Zayante Creeks on property owned by Mount Hermon Association.	Mount Hermon Outdoor Science School	2,300.00
	"Benthic macroinvertebrates in the upper reaches of the San Lorenzo Valley watershed: Establishing baseline data and educating citizens"	UCSC researcher & team of undergraduate interns to assess abundance & diversity of benthic macroinvertebrates in 3 SLVWD diversion streams; establish baseline data & share information regarding water quality with local citizens.	Dr. Katie Monsen	3,000.00
	"Watershed Nature Walks"	Series of 6 watershed nature walks free & open to the public, guided by local experts in local natural and historical resources.	Valley Women's Club	2,300.00
	"Project Protect It: Rivers of the Redwoods"	5 scholarships to SLV low-income families for outdoor summer science camp program; campers to test water, study water cycle & water conservation techniques, map watersheds & plants; Clean-Up Day to engage families & friends in trash pick-up & removal of invasive plants.	HOWL Science Program, Inc.	2,985.00
2009 total				\$10,585.00
2008	"Distribution & Nesting Ecology of Yellow Warblers (<i>Dendroica petechia</i>) on the Central Coast of California"	Study of distribution and nesting ecology of yellow warblers in the region, including the SLR watershed, to help conserve the species	Matthew Strusis-Timmer, graduate student, SJSU	1,460.00

	“Water quality study of feeder streams leading into the San Lorenzo River”	Experienced kayaker to visit, document & test various tributaries of the SLR, not normally accessible, for water quality.	Carl Reuter, kayaker	1,000.00
	“Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park Anadromous Fish Education Program”	Create an anadromous fish exhibit & school curriculum to educate a wide spectrum of park visitors; hands-on curriculum specific to the SLR focused on ecosystem connections & demo of practical preservation methods	Mountain Parks Foundation	2,401.00
	“Smart Gardening Faire”	3rd annual fair in Skypark, public education promoting gardening & landscaping practices to conserve water thru use of native plants & water-saving technologies	Monterey Bay Master Gardeners	1,400.00
	“Healthy Salmonid Habitats”	Hands-on project for 4th & 5th graders to learn about life-cycle & habitat requirements of steelhead, and to assess health of watershed for salmon thru water quality testing.	Boulder Creek Elementary	2,500.00
2008 Total				\$8,761.00
2007	“Water Quality Testing for Watershed Studies”	Teach concepts of chemistry, lab techniques, through water quality testing	SLV High School; Watershed Academy	1,718.00
	“Smart Gardening Faire”	Public educational event; focus on landscaping to conserve water, native plants; reduce pesticide/herbicide use	Monterey Bay Master Gardeners, Inc.	2,500.00
	“Exploring Watersheds”	6th grade educational program to promote watershed knowledge; classroom & field research	SLV Middle School	2,500.00

	"Wireless Weather Station for Watershed Studies"	Monitor real-time weather data collection from the classroom to teach natural science & environmental concepts	SLV High School Watershed Academy	2,500.00
	"Runoff to the River"	Public informational brochure on non-point source pollution	Valley Women's Club	2,500.00
2007 Total				\$11,718
2006	"Ruggedized Laptop for Watershed Studies"	Purchase of specialized computer hardware for outdoor use in field studies	SLV High School Watershed Academy	2,500.00
	"Creek Exploration Curriculum Enhancement for Improved Watershed Health"	Development of the school's watershed and creek curriculum, as well as the purchase of books, water quality sampling materials, and work gloves	Mt. Hermon Outdoor Science School	1,898.00
	"Design and Install Interpretive Panels Describing the Santa Cruz Sandhills"	Design, create, and install two interpretive panels, describing the uniqueness, fragility, and rarity of the Santa Cruz Sandhills.	Sandhills Alliance for Natural Diversity	2,440.00
	"Watershed Cruzin' Teachers Workshops for San Lorenzo Valley and Scotts Valley Teachers in Grades 4-8"	Series of 2-hr. teacher workshops to introduce watersheds of Santa Cruz County, and how to use Watershed Cruzin' guide and CD-ROM	Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District	2,500.00
	"Boulder Creek Elementary Loves the San Lorenzo River"	Purchased four computers and used multi-media software to create reports of outdoor watershed research.	Boulder Creek Elementary	2,000.00
	"Smart Gardening Faire"	Public outreach event to educate area residents about water-wise gardening and drought resistant plants	Monterey Bay Master Gardeners	970.00

	“The Outdoors as a Contest for Cultivating Little Learners in the San Lorenzo Valley Watershed”	Implementation of watershed curriculum for pre-school children	Little People's School of Boulder Creek	2,492.50
2006 Total				\$14,800.50
2005	“Invasive Plant Education and Eradication implementation in the San Lorenzo River Watershed”	Invasive plant eradication and community education about invasive species and how to control them	Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District	2,475.66
	“Sea Odyssey Watershed Model”	Enhance watershed education through construction of a new watershed model	O'Neill Surf	788.00
	“Monitoring the Wetlands-Sewage Ponds at San Lorenzo Valley High School”	Instruction of students in monitoring water quality of SLV High School's leach fields	SLV High School	2,256.00
	“An Introduction to Riparian Hydrology & Vegetation Sampling in the Rare and Unique Plant Communities of the San Lorenzo Valley Watershed: A Conservation Approach”	<p>CNPS Chapter President Casey Stewman provided 4 slideshows focused on the hydrologic relationship between vegetation, streams and groundwater, the value of undeveloped watershed lands & the value of riparian plant communities to fisheries, wildlife and water quality.</p> <p>Students learned about conservation efforts in California, including methods of sampling and describing rare and unique plant communities in Quail Hollow and the SLV watershed.</p>	SLV High School Watershed Academy	2,500.00

	"Educational Labels for Plants in the Watershed Environment"	Increase public awareness of native plants by making and placing interpretive signs in Linear Park's Nature Trail	Monterey Bay Master Gardeners	2,500.00
	"Healthy Rivers, Happy Fish"	One day conference with invited speakers expert in the areas of fisheries, hydrology, watershed management	Citizens for Responsible Forest Management	2,180.00
2005 Total				\$12,699.66
2004	"Long Term Monitoring of San Lorenzo Watershed Amphibian Population with San Lorenzo Valley High School's Watershed Academy"	Catalog abundance of amphibians; identify monitoring sites in the SLR watershed and select survey methods for monitoring amphibians	SLV High School Watershed Academy	2,496.13
	"San Lorenzo River Watershed Educational Display"	Construction of environmental kiosk overlooking the SL River	YMCA Camp Campbell	2,500.00
	"Protecting City Creeks and the San Lorenzo Watershed"	Printing of 4,500 color brochures emphasizing watershed protection; brochures mailed with Scotts Valley & SLV Water District bills	City of Scotts Valley	1,563.84
2004 Total				\$6,559.97