



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Drought Response Grant

The Garden Grove Unified School District (GGUSD) in Orange County has been approved for a Drought Response Outreach Program for Schools (DROPS) grant award of \$1,990,092 by the State Water Resources Control Board.

The DROPS funds will be used for the implementation of low-impact development projects for stormwater capture and drought mitigation. Bioretention basins will capture stormwater runoff and infiltrate it into the soil at three GGUSD campuses: Santiago High School, Bolsa Grande High School and Los Amigos High School. Plans include replacing turf with bioretention basins and restoring natural habitat to improve regional water quality and reduce potable water usage. A comprehensive education and outreach initiative will also be implemented at each school at GGUSD, the 11th largest school district in California.

“GGUSD is thrilled for the opportunity to integrate these DROPS projects into our water conservation efforts throughout the district,” says Dr. Gabriela Mafi, GGUSD’s Superintendent of Schools. “It is especially exciting for us to be able to get students involved in the planning and monitoring of the projects. Combining stormwater capture projects with education and outreach will create learning opportunities for students, teachers and the broader GGUSD community.”

GGUSD is developing its DROPS projects with the Climate Smart Schools program run by Climate Resolve, Los Angeles's climate change organization, with technical assistance by EcoMotion, a sustainability consultancy. Climate Smart Schools is also partnering with Orange County Coastkeeper, the county's leading watershed health organization, to develop and implement the education and outreach effort with GGUSD. In addition to helping GGUSD implement its DROPS grant, Climate Smart Schools is also working with the district to identify and implement energy conservation measures using funds that GGUSD was allocated from the California Clean Energy Jobs Act ("Proposition 39").

"This grant for GGUSD enables us to continue our work with EcoMotion on Climate Smart Schools in helping the district make strides in adapting to climate change," says Jonathan Parfrey, Executive Director of Climate Resolve. "As the historic drought continues, GGUSD can be seen as a shining example for greening schools in California. We are excited to continue as Proposition 39 and drought-response consultants for such important work."

The Garden Grove Unified School District (www.ggusd.us) encompasses 28 square miles of territory, serving most of Garden Grove and portions of Anaheim, Cypress, Fountain Valley, Santa Ana, Stanton, and Westminster. With 47,960 students, the district is the third largest among 28 public school districts in Orange County. The district employs more than 5,000 staff members and operates 66 schools: 44 elementary, 10 intermediate, seven high schools, one continuation school, one adult education center, two special education schools and one preschool family campus.

Climate Resolve (www.climateresolve.org) is a Los Angeles-based nonprofit dedicated to creating real, practical solutions to meet the climate challenge while creating a better city for Angelenos today and in the future.