



The Climate Reality Project[®]

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, CA CHAPTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOCAL CLIMATE REALITY CHAPTER RECEIVES “NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR” AWARD

CA State Senator Henry Stern honors Climate Reality Project San Fernando Valley Chapter with “Nonprofit of the Year” Award

WOODLAND HILLS, CA, May 16, 2023 – [Senator Henry Stern](#) (District 27) has chosen The Climate Reality Project’s San Fernando Valley Chapter to receive the honor of his district’s 2023 “Nonprofit of the Year” award. The San Fernando Valley Chapter is among the more than one hundred California nonprofits recognized by their state senators and assemblymembers for their outstanding contributions to the communities they serve, through the opportunity provided by the [Nonprofit of the Year initiative](#), now in its eighth year.

The International [Climate Reality Project](#) is an action-focused volunteer organization founded in 2011 by former Vice President Al Gore. The San Fernando Valley Chapter, which started with nine members in 2018, made it their mission to educate, motivate, and empower community residents on environmental matters and sustainability initiatives. Today, with a roster of over 950, the chapter is making an appreciable impact at the local *and* state levels.

“Every year in California, and in every district, there’s a nonprofit honored as the ‘Nonprofit of the Year,’” said Sen. Stern, speaking at the Climate Reality Project San Fernando Valley Chapter meeting in May. “There are a lot of different submissions, and, this year, I’m honoring The Climate Reality Project San Fernando Valley Chapter with this award. For all the calls you make, and all the work you do, and all the deep dives you take, and all the Zoom meetings and everything...it’s very special what you’ve built here. I have learned so much from you. You’ve become Sacramento firepower now!”

A key project uniting the San Fernando Valley Chapter with Senator Stern’s passion for environmental legislation is the Sepulveda Basin, a 2,000-acre area in the heart of the San Fernando Valley.

Says Chapter chair Diana Weynand, “We’ve learned through our work with The Climate Reality Project organization that to produce results – you *must* take action. And that’s what we’ve done regarding the [Sepulveda Basin](#). We saw the value of an ‘emerald gem’ in the heart of Los Angeles, like Central Park in NYC, and we started raising awareness about utilizing nature-based solutions to restore and ‘reimagine’ the Basin.”





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The Chapter wrote a resolution and formed the Sepulveda Basin Coalition, which has over 80 signatures from community and environmental leaders and organizations. Says Stern, “Rarely are there opportunities to attack the problems of extreme heat, park poverty, habitat loss, and flood risk in this underrepresented part of the San Fernando Valley, but the Sepulveda Basin is just that opportunity. We cannot let narrow ideas limit our vision of what the basin can be.”

Earlier this year, LA Councilmembers Raman and Blumenfeld introduced a [motion](#) citing the Chapter’s Resolution and expressing the need for nature-based solutions in the Basin. In February, Sen. Stern introduced [SB 539](#), a bill that would provide state funding to ensure the Basin receives the support it needs to flourish. Says Stern, “I am introducing this legislation to help LA and the Army Corps reimagine what is possible when we engineer with nature and our community on our side.”

Under the leadership of the SFV Chapter’s legislative coordinator, Kathy Schaeffer, the Legislative Committee evaluates and acts on local and statewide environmental legislation. Says Schaeffer, “The committee has endorsed many bills authored by legislators across the state. We are particularly proud to support Senator Stern’s record of environmental advocacy, and measures to improve accountability in meeting climate goals.”

Says chair Weynand, “We value the work Senator Stern does for our community and our environment. It’s a great partnership and we couldn’t be more proud of this award.”

Weynand and Schaeffer will receive the award on June 7th at the “Nonprofit of the Year” luncheon in Sacramento.

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About SFV Climate Reality:

The Climate Reality Project [San Fernando Valley Chapter](#) meets via Zoom on the second Tuesday of each month, from 7pm to 8:30pm. They educate the community by hosting monthly webinars with guest speakers in environmental science, activism, and policy, and they connect with like-minded environmental partners. The meetings are open to whoever wants to take action on climate change. Register for the next Chapter meeting [HERE](#) (or use <https://bit.ly/SFVCR>). For more information about the Chapter, visit their website at <https://www.sfvclimatereality.org>. We welcome you to [join the San Fernando Valley Chapter](#) and help us create a sustainable future.

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