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LOCAL CLIMATE REALITY LEADER RECEIVES “ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR” AWARD

CA State Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel honors Diana Weynand, Climate Reality Project: San Fernando Valley Chapter Founder and Chair, with “Environmentalist of the Year” Award

WOODLAND HILLS, CA, December 9, 2022 – Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel (D - Woodland Hills) honored thirteen local leaders at his 2nd Annual Community Leaders Awards Dinner, December 1st, 2022. Among the recipients was Diana Weynand, Founder and Chair of The Climate Reality Project’s San Fernando Valley Chapter. Weynand received the “Environmentalist of the Year” award for leading positive change on climate issues impacting the San Fernando Valley.

“One of my top priorities is working on climate change and protecting our environment,” said Assemblymember Gabriel at the event. “Obviously, there’s a need for global action. This is a threat to humanity. A threat to our planet. But local grassroots action is also key. One of the most active groups in our district doing that work is the San Fernando Valley Chapter of The Climate Reality Project. They educate the community by hosting monthly webinars with guest speakers in environmental science, activism, and policy, and they connect with like-minded community partners.”

“As chair of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, Diana has embodied their mission of education and action,” said Gabriel. The Resolution stated that under Ms. Weynand’s leadership, the local chapter has engaged with state and local government to support environmental measures and has advocated for local nature-based solutions, including significant support for the Sepulveda Basin Restoration project. She has provided ongoing support to chapter members and the community to encourage actions that fight climate change and protect the environment.

Says Weynand, “When I started the San Fernando Valley Chapter in 2018, we were a small group of nine Climate Reality leaders wanting to make a difference. Now we’re over 850 strong.” Weynand adds, “We’ve learned through our work with The Climate Reality Project organization that to produce results – you have to show up and take action. And that’s what we encourage our members to do.”
Gabriel went on to highlight some of Weynand’s previous climate actions, which include participating in the COP21 in Paris, producing documentary footage at the International Tribunal of Rights Against Nature, and serving as Board Chair for the Earth Law Center, a rights of nature organization. Weynand joined The Climate Reality Leadership Corps in 2017.

The Climate Reality Project is an action-focused group of volunteers founded in 2011 by Former Vice President Al Gore. Through their intensive climate science trainings, the organization fulfills its mission to catalyze a global solution to the climate crisis by making urgent action a necessity across every sector of society. Weynand’s chapter represents The Climate Reality Project in the San Fernando Valley area.

With the limiting impact of the pandemic, the SFV Chapter of Climate Reality amped up their virtual connections, holding regular meetings on Zoom with an audience that has grown from month to month. They are currently in the process of developing their 2023 Legislative agenda and building community support for their Resolution to support natural solutions in the reimagining of the Sepulveda Basin.

Assemblymember Gabriel awarded each recipient at the event with a California State Legislature Resolution and acknowledged they “...made the San Fernando Valley a better place to live over the past year.” The ceremony took place at The Local Peasant restaurant on Ventura Boulevard in Woodland Hills.

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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. You do not have to be a Climate Reality leader to attend the meetings and start taking local action. All are welcome. Register for the next chapter meeting HERE (or use 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 fight climate change in our community.

Contact:
Vivian Deutsch, Outreach Coordinator, SFV Climate Reality Project
sfvclimatereality@gmail.com
818-970-8785