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**CLIMATE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES**

## **COASTAL CONSERVANCY VOTES TO APPROVE INSTALLATION OF 25 RAIN GARDENS AND WATER CISTERNS IN EAST PALO ALTO**

*Nearly \$1 million in grant funding will provide homeowners a rain garden and water cistern system at no cost.*

**East Palo Alto, CA** — On March 24<sup>th</sup> the California Coastal Conservancy unanimously voted to authorize \$836,381 in grant funding to Climate Resilient Communities to support the installation of 25 rain garden and water cistern systems for vulnerable homeowners in East Palo Alto. The systems, provided to residents at no cost, will promote food sovereignty, increase home values, curb water scarcity, and reduce the risk of flooding.

“Rain gardens are an excellent nature-based solution to our changing climate that addresses multiple community priorities at once,” said Violet Wulf-Saena, the Founder and Executive Director of Climate Resilient Communities (CRC).

The project is a collaboration between several non-profit organizations with specific expertise: FreshApproach will coordinate planting edible and native species as well as training and hiring community members to install and maintain the systems. Grassroots Ecology and volunteers from the San Jose Conservation Corps will handle the installation of the systems, and HighTide Intelligence will provide analytical support to model the effectiveness of the gardens at flood prevention. Saena and CRC will lead the community outreach, project coordination, and educational portions of the project.

“We are proud that this project has been community led from the start and will stay that way until it is completed,” said Wulf-Saena. “Those closest to the problem are closest to solutions.”

The project emerged from an extensive community vulnerability assessment where CRC solicited resident input door-to-door, conducted workshops and focus groups in multiple languages, and forged partnerships with other community-based organizations.

CRC is a community-based organization working hand-in-hand with the Peninsula's underrepresented communities to help create resident-led solutions that elevate local voices and promote unity, resilience, and justice. Support us by writing about our work or at [climatercommunities.org](http://climatercommunities.org).

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