



The Community Foundation  
Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties

## S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund Grant Evaluation Form

**Grant Period:**

**10-1-2012 to 09-30-2013**

Organization: Inland Empire Waterkeeper

Contact Name: Megan Brousseau

Title: Program Director

Phone Number: 951-530-8823

Grant Period: 10-1-2012 to 9-30-2013

Award Amount: 14,199

Grant Number: 2012747

- *Describe the project's key outcomes and results based on your goals and objectives. Provide the number of clients served and other relevant statistics.*

The funding from the Gimbel Grant allowed Inland Empire Waterkeeper to provide ten science based watershed field trips, along with in-class presentations, to Riverside and San Bernardino science classes in the 2012-2013 school year. The total amount of students served by these field trips was 336, of which 28 students expressed a desire to pursue a science related career after our trips and presentations. IEWK administered quizzes to assess the level of knowledge that each student held about watershed science both before and after each field trip. There was an average increase in test scores of 65% in these classes. This demonstrates a significant increase in knowledge and comprehension of water quality issues and the function of a watershed among the students.

In addition to supplying the bus, substitute teacher and actual field trip to the classes, IEWK was also able to provide mentoring to the students on various science related careers in watershed management and guidance on what college majors would aid in obtaining these careers. As such, IEWK was pleased to extend offers of summer internships to two field trip recipients that were graduating seniors.

This goal of educating underserved students on the subject of water quality and watershed issues was successfully reached in the 2012-2013 school year because of the support of The Community Foundation's Gimbel Grant.

- *What were the challenges and obstacles you encountered (if any) in attaining your goals & objectives? How did you overcome and/or address the challenges and obstacles? What were the lessons learned?*

As we embarked on the new school year of programming, it became very clear that the students were not utilizing the experience of the existing programming to the fullest. The program needed to be more dynamic and exciting to break the monotony of the facility tours and in-class presentations. Inland Empire Waterkeeper staff acted quickly to remedy the situation and engage students! We solved the issue by constructing new partnerships with facilities program coordinators in the area to eliminate the facility fees in order to use those grant resources on exciting, hands on additions to our program that required additional staff time.

We added a falconer to the wetlands experience that accompanies our treatment facility tour, for a once in a lifetime opportunity for students to get up close and personal with live hawks that call our waterways home. The students were immediately engaged in this awe inspiring show of nature. We also added student conducted water testing and biodiversity studies in exciting wild riparian habitats to the menu of field trips from which to choose, taking students hiking to mountain tops, and down into creeks and rivers. The staff time need to develop and coordinate these new features of the program was well worth the return, and allowed us to build strong partnerships in the environmental education community. We learned that partnerships and a fluid structure to programming are the highest of assets in carrying out our mission.

- *Describe any unintended positive outcomes as a result of the efforts supported by this grant.*

One unexpected outcome of this grant was that we took under advisement The SL Gimbel grant committee's suggestion to start this program in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the future. Although we had already committed to the high schools to our capacity for the 2012-2013 school year, we did, at the advice of the committee, supply one field trip to a local elementary school without using any funds. We did this with the donated time of staff and the with the transportation need provided by the school. During this pilot field trip for elementary students, we saw great impact on the students, wonderful feedback from the teacher and parents who attended, and have decided to expand the recipients of this year's field trips to the elementary students of Riverside and San Bernardino. We are excited about this expansion of our target audience, and thank the committee for their insight.

- *Describe the overall effect this grant has had on your organization.*

The SL Gimbel grant has had the utmost positive effect on our organization and the community of the Inland Empire. Due to decreasing availability of grants and other funding sources in the non-profit sector, our education program, River KATS, relied heavily on the Gimbel grant, with it providing the bulk of our program for the 2012-2013 year. The only way that we were able to reach the hundreds of students that we did was because of this grant. It has provided vital outreach and education to students, instilling in them a stewardship and understanding of their watershed. In addition, because of the grant funded program; many interns were able to participate in and learn from the program, in order to excel in their coursework and subsequent careers.

- *Tell us a few success stories that made an impact on your organization and/or community as a result of this grant.*

This school year, we saw children marvel at live raptors for the first time in their lives. We experienced a young girl who thought that rabbits did not live in California; delight in the sight of a jack rabbit jaunting across her path with squeals of excitement. Students, who have lived in Riverside their entire lives, set foot in the riparian forest of the Santa Ana River trails for the first time. Their eyes light up with the amazement of a Great White Egret soaring above them. This year, through the generosity of The Community Foundation's S.L. Gimbel grant, we saw students make the connection between their lives and homes, and that of our watershed and waterways. Thank you, for this wonderfully successful adventure in education.

- *Provide a financial report on the use of your grant funds (expenditures).*

\*Please see attached Excel Document with expenditures report

\*Please also see the attached promotional and press related items.

- ❖ Please send copies of publicity and other promotional materials.
- ❖ All variances or time extensions must be approved by The Community Foundation's Grant Committee. Please contact us at 951-684-4194, ext. 114 immediately if a variance or extension becomes necessary.

**Please return the completed form to:**

Celia Cudiamat, Vice President of Grant Programs  
3700 Sixth St., Suite 200, Riverside, CA 92501 or fax to 951-684-1911  
Or email to: [ccudiamat@thecommunityfoundation.net](mailto:ccudiamat@thecommunityfoundation.net)

2012-2013 School Year Field Trips Funded by Gimbel Grant

Bus Transportation	3114.95
Substitute Teacher	665.07
Supplies	477.93
Facility Fees	26
Waterkeeper Staff Time	5890
Admin	2165.9
Waterkeeper Mileage	375.73
Total Spent to date	12715.58

Total Remaining for our last field trip scheduled for mid August is 1483.42