

Bank of America – San Diego
Climate Protection Champion Award Application
Summary of Accomplishments

Bank of America announced a \$20 billion environmental initiative in March 2007 to encourage development of environmentally sustainable business practices through lending, investing, philanthropy and the creation of new products and services. The first significant investments under this plan have been in California, from outfitting the largest solar K-12 school program in the nation, to preserving redwood forests.

In 2007, the bank reached out to the City of San Diego and its partners in climate change to help make a difference on the local level. City of San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders had recently made a commitment to developing a globally recognized CleanTech cluster in San Diego, providing a platform for the bank to partner locally.

The outreach efforts and dialogue resulted in the bank's first – and largest – set of green grants announced to date. Four San Diego organizations were awarded \$500,000 in "Green Grants " at a January 15th press conference with Mayor Sanders:

- \$250,000 to the San Diego Foundation's Climate Initiative to develop policy solutions at the local government and grassroots level that curb global warming, and generate public awareness around climate change.
- \$100,000 to the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to further promote environmentally sustainable practices in the business community and develop a Clean Technology business cluster, proposed last spring by Mayor Sanders.
- \$100,000 to La Maestra Community Health Center for the construction of a green-built, LEED Gold certified health center in City Heights.
- \$50,000 for the California Center for Sustainable Energy to offer workshops for residents to make changes in their daily routines to mitigate climate change, and to provide residential green-building assistance, particularly in the rebuilding following the recent wildfires.

The bank continues to partner with these organizations, with the bank's environmental consultant, to provide technical guidance as they develop and execute their community programs around climate change. And the bank continues to reach out to new partners in the San Diego community to explore the opportunities and initiatives being championed at the local level towards climate change.

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