

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **TreePeople Awarded \$1.2 Million to Retrofit Homes to Capture and Infiltrate Rain**

*\$4 million settlement between LA County and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and LA Waterkeeper to support home retrofits and green streets projects to capture rainfall, recharge groundwater and reduce polluted runoff*

LOS ANGELES (February 22, 2017)-- Yesterday, the LA County Board of Supervisors awarded TreePeople \$1.2 million to pilot an innovative approach to home rainwater capture projects in unincorporated areas of LA County, with a focus on underserved communities. The project will help protect vulnerable communities from flooding, contribute toward our region's water supply, improve water quality and offer water storage for later use.

It is part of a larger \$4 million settlement between LA County and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and LA Waterkeeper. The settlement funds support home retrofits and green streets projects to capture rainfall, recharge groundwater and reduce polluted runoff from being purged into our rivers and ocean in neighborhoods with high climate-risk.

The project aims to directly impact dozens of households by removing turf and concrete to install landscapes that are designed to conserve drinking water and capture the rain. Participating homes will showcase the critical role community members have to build climate-readiness and serve as a model for those joining the movement.

Growing up in the Northeast San Fernando Valley, TreePeople CEO, Cindy Montañez directly felt the effects pollution and treeless streets have on under-resourced communities. But it's because of these same experiences that she's positioned to lead TreePeople to transform communities into thriving, safe and healthy spaces.

This is a boon as the State of California is experiencing severe flooding following years of a historic drought. Our streets are flooded and our systems are stressed. California reservoirs are overflowing with water and communities are threatened with flooding. This is why TreePeople is committed to pilot a new safe, secure and quickly deployable concept for our region's immense challenges.

The remainder of the \$4 million supports a \$2.8 million green street project complete with tree plantings, climate-smart landscaping, solar-powered trash cans, porous sidewalks and more to capture, clean and use the rain where it falls in the historic community of 103rd Street ("Charcoal Alley") in Watts. The community can look forward to a beautiful, walkable outdoor space improving overall health.

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### **About TreePeople**

As the Los Angeles region faces severe impacts from climate change, TreePeople unites the power of trees, people and nature-based solutions to grow a more climate-ready city. The organization inspires, engages and supports Angelenos to take personal responsibility for the urban environment, facilitates collaboration among government agencies, and promotes leadership by grassroots volunteers, students and communities. Together, we are growing a greener, shadier, healthier and more water-secure Los Angeles for present and future generations. For more info, visit [treepeople.org](http://treepeople.org).