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TreePeople Applauds Governor Newsom’s Climate-Focused Proposed Budget

Combating the Climate Crisis Through Trees, Nature-Based Solutions and Green Schools in Vulnerable Communities

(LOS ANGELES, CA) -- TreePeople applauds Gov. Gavin Newsom’s bold leadership on climate change and the unprecedented funding proposed for the Administration’s budget to respond to the climate crisis and the priorities critical to TreePeople’s mission. Over the past year, TreePeople, in collaboration with partners representing environmental justice, resource conservation, public health and more, have successfully fought for investments that prioritize nature-based solutions in vulnerable communities that are disproportionately impacted by climate threats.

“Extreme heat kills more people than every other natural disaster combined in the United States,” said - TreePeople CEO Cindy Montañez. “We are excited about the commitments put forward by the Governor and his team in this budget proposal to fund projects , like school greening to better protect our communities, especially those heat-vulnerable communities, low-tree canopy communities, and communities of color.”

The Governor’s budget proposes \$100 million for the State’s Urban Greening Program and Urban and Community Forestry Program to address climate resilience through trees and related green infrastructure. Additionally, the budget proposes a \$300 million investment to support the implementation of the state’s Extreme Heat Action Plan, which sets numerous essential state goals that includes utilizing nature-based solutions as part of cooling strategies in public and private spaces. TreePeople’s advocacy and on-the-ground expertise in addressing extreme heat is further reflected in the Plan’s near-term focus to cool schools in heat-vulnerable communities – also identified as a funding priority in the Administration’s budget

Southern California is the only place in the world where heat-related deaths occur during winter months. Investing in urban forestry and greening is the single most effective way to mitigate the impacts of extreme heat, while also producing other climate adaptation and resiliency benefits, including opportunities to create cooler schools that use less energy and provide children with safe, fun places to play.

About TreePeople

TreePeople unites the power of trees, people, and nature-based solutions to grow a more

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climate-ready LA. The organization inspires, engages and supports Angelenos to take personal responsibility for the urban environment, facilitates collaboration among government agencies, and promotes leadership in grassroots volunteers, students and communities. In this way, TreePeople seeks to build a powerful and diverse coalition to grow a greener, healthier and more water-secure Los Angeles for present and future generations. For more information, visit treepeople.org.