2016 was the driest year on record in California. The winter of 2017 was the wettest.

Ranchers who were forced to sell off or destroy their herds of cattle the year before were faced this year with spring flooding from the melt of historic Sierra snowpack. Orchards coaxed to bloom early by hot weather in February only to be frozen in April will not bear fruit across the Western slopes of the Rocky Mountains. Driven by prolonged drought, famine across Africa and the Near East has caused the starvation of thousands of people and animals, and is putting more than 20 million people at risk of the same fate. Weather extremes are the ‘new normal’ presented by climate change.

Even as our climate tumbles into chaos, it is agriculture - the way we grow our food, interact with and manage the land - that represents the most effective opportunity to balance the global carbon cycle by drawing down atmospheric carbon and storing it in the soil. Yet agriculture needs a stable climate in order to be productive.

In 2016, the State of California led the world by launching a new program, The Healthy Soils Initiative. Simultaneously, a suite of first of their kind policies were enacted to push polluting materials away from landfills, burning and slurry ponds and into the beneficial production of compost. Through strategic grants to leading non-profits, scientists and individuals in the carbon farming, composting, healthy food and also fiber space, The Jena & Michael King Foundation continued to play an essential role in growing the California healthy soil movement.

Recognizing the interconnectedness of land and sea and the peril our oceans face from the stresses of overfishing and climate change, Jena King joined the board of the international ocean advocacy group Oceana, which she and her husband Michael helped launch years ago. The Foundation also supported work on the front lines of the historic coming together of indigenous American tribes to protect our waters for future generations at Standing Rock, North Dakota, while focusing on the immediate and long-term health needs of the severely underserved Sioux nation.

Children are our future, and it is to our young that the Foundation dedicates the work of healing the planet. We supported the health and well-being of youth in Los Angeles and around the world through grants to local schools and to not-for-profit leaders who are dedicated to creating safe, nurturing and healing spaces for children.

Last but not least, our hearts were opened by supporting the life-changing work of the Himalayan Cataract Project, which has given or restored vision to over 600,000 people in remote communities around the world.

Giving in 2016 set the stage for several large “spring-board” grants in early 2017 to LA Compost, The California Carbon Project, Bioneers, and A Sense of Home, in recognition of their significant impact and promise.

“The hearts of All People’s faiths must now unite in believing we can change the path we are now on. We, from the heart of Turtle Island, have a great message for the world to unite for our children’s future...It is time that all of us become leaders to help protect the sacred upon Mother Earth - she is the source of life and not a resource. In a Sacred Hoop of Life, there is no ending and no beginning.” Chief Arvol Looking Horse, 2016

In Gratitude,

Nuna Teal, PhD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
The following grantees played essential roles in the growth and success of the California regenerative movement in 2016:

**NETWORK BUILDING, EDUCATION AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE**

In 2016 the Foundation sponsored travel, conference attendance and direct knowledge exchange for grantees, supporting crucial educational opportunities when they arose. In the case of the Fibershed's Indigo Project, for example, the Foundation made it possible for the lead mechanical engineer to visit fiber and dye operations in Kentucky. Attendance at the AREDAYS Renewable Energy Conference connected the foundation with leading scientists, politicians, organizations and other funders such as the U.N. Foundation. Similarly, when it came to connecting individuals across projects to convene around building what would, in 2017, become the California Carbon Project collaborative, the Foundation again stepped in to sponsor additional travel and lodging for existing project grantees and Foundation staff to attend the fall Bioneers Conference. This resulted in an invitation to provide a keynote address on carbon farming at Bioneers in 2017, and our making strong connections with indigenous leaders that continue to inform grant making.

**COMET PLANNER: Colorado State University**

With a matching grant from the Rathmann Family Foundation, the COMET Planner was developed as GHG modeling tool for USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation practice planning and the State of California’s Healthy Soil Initiative. It evaluates potential carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas reductions from adopting carbon farming specific NRCS practices, such as those involving cropland management, cropland to herbaceous cover, cropland to woody cover, grazing lands and restoration of disturbed lands. The COMET Planner is now the leading tool in healthy soil and carbon farm policies and programs around the nation and is being looked to by the European Union.
FIBERSHED, *Indigo Project*

Fibershed works to model and support the emergence of an international system of regional textile communities that enliven connection and ownership of “soil to soil” textile processes based on carbon farm practices. These diverse textile cultures are designed to build soil carbon stocks on the working landscapes on which they depend, while directly enhancing the strength of regional economies.

In efforts to support the development of a non-toxic, climate beneficial alternative to coal tar based synthetic indigo, the Foundation funded a first of its kind assessment of natural indigo cultivation in the state of CA. The study which was finished in Feb 2017 includes: an assessment of the potential to supply regional and domestic manufactures with natural climate beneficial indigo, business model scenarios for scaling up production, investment ready engineered solutions for mid scale harvest and dye extraction technologies and equipment and next steps for regional market development. This information will be made public in 2017.

**KISS THE GROUND**

Kiss the Ground’s mission is to inspire and advocate for the restoration of soil worldwide, as building healthy soil has the ability to sequester carbon from the atmosphere and impact the lives of billions worldwide by contributing to clean water, healthy food, drought resistance and restored habitats. The Foundation has supported KTG since its inception (Jena King was on its board), and provided funding, a scriptwriter and translations for its animated film, *The Soil Story*, which was nominated for an Environmental Media Award and helped serve as a mission statement for the California Regeneration movement. This year’s grant was for the inclusion of *The Soil Story* and related teaching materials in STEM school science curricula throughout the nation.

**THE PHOENIX PROJECT**

The Phoenix Project was sponsored by San Francisco based A Matter of Trust. The project was managed and implemented by Calla Rose Ostrander with the goals of increasing composting and compost education in the state of California. Working with leading cities and nonprofits Ms. Ostrander provided basic science education on the carbon and nitrogen benefits that compost has for healthy soils, its catalytic role in soil carbon sequestration and best management examples for compost creation from urban backyards, to community gardens to large scale agricultural compost operations in rural areas and within CA’s food system.
Local grantees in Los Angeles, such as LA Compost, LA Food Policy Council, UCLA’s Institute of the Environment & Sustainability, and Kitchen Community all contributed to the conversation and work of educating LA citizens on the connection between healthy food, healthy soils and thriving communities.

COMMUNITY HEALING GARDENS

CHG’s mission is to create urban gardens to grow nutritious, organic produce that is shared by communities in Los Angeles, guided by the belief that every corner with a patch of soil or empty space has the potential to provide plant-based food.

In Watts, CHG embarked on a project to restore and develop a large one acre garden adjoining the Markham Middle School, and to engage the school community in growing organic fruits and vegetables as part of the curriculum, as well as expand into the business opportunity of providing fresh produce to neighborhood residents, the local farmer’s market and restaurants.

FOOD ON FOOT

Food on Foot is dedicated to assisting the poor and homeless of Los Angeles through programs that provide over 200 nutritious meals per week, clothing, work opportunities and ultimately the transition to full-time employment and life off the streets.

INSTITUTE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY UCLA

Drawing on the dynamism of one of the world’s largest and most diverse cities and its top-tier public university, the Institute takes students of all cultures and income levels beyond campus borders to be real-world problem solvers. Their deeply committed faculty engages in environmental research and storytelling that strives to create substantive change in the present, fueled by passion and pragmatism that inspires participants “to serve all of Los Angeles and our planet through teaching, research and public events.”
**LA COMPOST**

LA Compost is building compost hubs throughout the city that invest in food and people. By creating and distributing compost and teaching people how to grow their own food, LA Compost works to create life-giving experiences, creating “a space where people can coexist and think of their surrounding community.” Strengthening the current compost hubs and building more in new communities will continue to decrease the amount of food waste that is sent to landfills and increase the amount of quality compost that can be distributed to local communities throughout Los Angeles. These hubs will divert thousands of pounds of organics from reaching landfills while keeping the finished compost in the community where the food was originally consumed.

*LA Compost is the recipient of a large “springboard” grant in 2017.*

**LA FOOD POLICY COUNCIL**

The Los Angeles Food Policy Council (LAFPC) is a collective impact initiative, working to make Southern California a Good Food region for everyone—where food is healthy, affordable, fair and sustainable. Through policy creation and cooperative relationships, their goals are to reduce hunger, improve public health, increase equity in LA communities, create good jobs, stimulate local economic activity, and foster environmental stewardship. In particular, the LAFPC aims to connect environmental sustainability and local agriculture with efforts to expand access to healthy food in historically disenfranchised communities.

**KITCHEN COMMUNITY**

The Kitchen Community builds Learning Gardens in schools around the country with the goal of engaging outdoor classrooms that connect kids to real food, increasing academic achievement, and driving community engagement.
DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

Since 1971, Doctors Without Borders has delivered medical care to the most vulnerable populations worldwide, helping people affected by natural disasters, conflict, epidemics, or exclusion from health care.

NETWORK BUILDING, EDUCATION & KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Relationships formed with indigenous leaders at the Bioneers Conference led to an invitation to camp Oceti Sakowin at Standing Rock. The Foundation sponsored Clinical Herbalist Sila Rood to provide front line and routine care as support staff under the guidance of Dr. Sara Jumping Eagle and Linda Black Elk, Traditional Herbalist, directors of the Medic + Healer Council. While doing so, she studied regional medicine and conducted a needs assessment for a mobile clinical unit that would serve the long-term needs of remote indigenous populations as part of the new Mni Wiconi Clinic, for which a community campaign is forthcoming and planned for 2017.

INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK

IEN is an alliance of Indigenous peoples whose shared mission is to protect the sacredness of Earth Mother from contamination and exploitation by respecting and adhering to Indigenous knowledge and Natural Law. In support of the Water Protectors of Standing Rock, our Foundation provided funds for straw bale insulation and construction, a yurt, and media.
OCEANA

Oceana is dedicated to protecting and restoring the world’s oceans on a global scale. Oceana seeks to make our oceans more biodiverse and abundant by winning policy victories in the countries that govern much of the world’s marine life. Founded in 2001, Oceana has become the largest international advocacy organization focused solely on ocean conservation. Their offices around the world work together to win strategic, directed campaigns that achieve measurable outcomes that will help make our oceans more biodiverse and abundant, and continue to feed the world. Fundraisers held by Jena and Michael King helped launch Oceana, and Jena currently serves on its Board.

PEOPLE FOR THE AMERICAN WAY

Founded by Norman Lear, People For the American Way and its affiliate, People For the American Way Foundation, are progressive advocacy organizations founded to fight right-wing extremism and defend constitutional values under attack, including free expression, religious liberty, equal justice under the law, and the right to meaningfully participate in our democracy.

UCLA FOUNDATION

Through The UCLA Foundation, generous donors participate with building, sustaining and advancing the university. Private philanthropy provides the resources UCLA requires to continue growing its stature as a global leader in the creation, sharing and application of knowledge.

WOMEN’S IMAGE NETWORK

Investing in women is a powerful way to strengthen families, communities and economies. The Women’s Image Network (WIN) is a charity which since 1993 has collaborated with advertising agencies, artists, fortune 100 and 500 companies, television networks and movie studios to create The WIN Awards, which honor deserving media and individuals in film, television, advertising, politics and business who promote gender parity, advancing the value of women and girls through their creativity and leadership.
BARBARA SINATRA CENTER FOR ABUSED CHILDREN

The Children’s Center is dedicated to ensuring every child’s right to a normal, healthy and secure childhood, providing individual, group and family therapy along with special programs that address issues associated with children suffering the affects of child abuse and neglect, and who are at risk of being abused.

A SENSE OF HOME

The Foundation remains committed to the growing success of ASOH, a new LA-based nonprofit organization that has taken a holistic approach to transforming the lives of at-risk foster youth who “age out” of the system. Guided by the youths’ own taste, their first-ever homes are created by volunteers utilizing donated furniture and all the elements that comprise a fully furnished home. ASOH volunteers serve as would a family, making the youths’ first permanent living spaces truly beautiful, contributing to their sense of security, dignity and pride. Every high-spirited home creation closes with shared stories, songs and spoken word, bringing all who participate even closer together.

Each recipient then ‘pays it forward’ by participating with other volunteers in the creation of another youth’s home, becoming further immersed in the community while learning from healthy role models and mentors who can open up educational and career opportunities. The all-star foster youth staff have helped design the systems and how the process can best empower their peers. ASOH has been designed for replication across the country, and is the recipient of a large “springboard” grant from the Foundation in 2017.
CROSSROADS SCHOOL FOR ARTS & SCIENCES

Crossroads School is a culturally and socially diverse K-12 college preparatory school based in Santa Monica, California. Founded 40 years ago by a group of educators and parents hoping to create an innovative approach to education, Crossroads pioneered the concept of an “education in balance,” built upon the commitments to academic excellence, the arts, the greater community, the development of a student population of social, economic and racial diversity (providing scholarships) and to the development of each student’s physical well-being and full human potential.

GO CAMPAIGN

GO Campaign improves the lives of orphans and vulnerable children around the world by identifying and partnering with local heroes to deliver local solutions. GO Campaign connects donors to high-impact grassroots projects aimed at changing lives and transforming communities, one child at a time.

HARVARD WESTLAKE

Harvard Westlake is a college preparatory school for grades 7-12 that “strives to be a diverse and inclusive community united by the joyful pursuit of educational excellence, living and learning with integrity, and purpose beyond ourselves.”

HIMALAYAN CATARACT PROJECT

With over 600,000 ophthalmic surgeries performed to restore sight since 1995, the Himalayan Cataract Project works to overcome barriers impeding delivery of cataract care to underserved, needlessly blind people in often remote regions of the developing world. Their efforts focus on eradicating preventable and curable blindness with a concurrent strategy to provide high-quality care, train local personnel and establish a world-class eye care infrastructure where most needed.

The Foundation’s funds were allocated specifically to curing pediatric blindness in Ethiopia, providing surgical equipment and specialized training for local doctors.
PLAN INTERNATIONAL USA

In partnership with donors, children and communities, Plan works in more than 50 developing countries to end the cycle of poverty, focusing on child participation, education, economic security, protection, health, water and sanitation. It provides training in disaster preparedness, response and recovery, and has joined relief efforts in Haiti, Colombia and Japan.

VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM: EVERY CHILD

The Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater Los Angeles unifies and strengthens the voices of its many member organizations and individuals, all of whom are committed to ending the epidemic of violence by providing education, resources and policy advocacy.

SMILE TRAIN

Smile Train is an international children's charity that provides free cleft repair surgery and comprehensive cleft care to children in more than 85 developing countries. Their sustainable model trains and empowers local doctors to provide cleft care in their own communities.
The beauty of the world is beheld in our sight, held in our hearts and cultivated through our hands. We are honored to support the beautiful cycle of life.

Jena & Michael King Foundation