



Project Description

A key element of EHC's work is engaging and building leaders. EHC invests in individuals to become community leaders, and provides ongoing training to these leaders for continued growth. SALTA (Salud Ambiental Líderes Tomando Acción / Environmental Health Leaders Taking Action) is EHC's primary program to empower and engage people. Inaugurated in 1996, SALTA has provided almost 3,000 community residents with skills-building in community organizing, building power, environmental justice, policy advocacy, and effective communication. Held every 18 months, an average of 25 residents graduate each SALTA cycle; 90% of these participants are women. SALTA prepares community members to become leaders in their community; it is also the first step towards long-term volunteer leadership in EHC through our Community Action Teams (CAT).

EHC will host a six-session SALTA training in fall 2021. The SALTA will review the following topics: 1) Re-defining who a leader is; 2) Environmental racism and food justice; 3) Environmental health and how local policy influences health outcomes; and 4) Messaging and policy advocacy. EHC recognizes that more can be accomplished by partnering with peer organizations to accomplish shared goals. To engage more frontline women in the SALTA, EHC will co-develop and facilitate the SALTA with Olivewood Gardens and Learning Center (Olivewood). Olivewood's Kitchenistas Community Engagement Program engages over 275 women annually in championing healthy food in the National City community. Together, we hope to graduate at least 30 new female leaders from the 2021 SALTA training.

The SALTA will be conducted over virtual channels with Spanish interpretation. The training will also include a virtual tour of important locations in EHC's core communities including locations of environmental justice wins and sites where climate resiliency improvements are needed, led by the community leaders that have made the work possible. The tour will be professionally produced and recorded so that it can be shared for years to come with other community groups and residents seeking to learn more about environmental and climate justice. To ensure residents can effectively participate, EHC will offer usage of tablets and wifi hotspots (funded by complementary funders).

Timeline

Between June and September, EHC will collaborate with Olivewood to plan the joint SALTA training. Together we will create the session curriculum and Powerpoint presentations. In June and July, EHC and Olivewood will source quotes and contract with a videographer for the video tours. In August, EHC will prepare the hard copy materials in a binder for participants including readings, handouts, and activity worksheets. The training is expected to launch in September with a virtual graduation in October.

Use of Project Funds

EHC and Olivewood have received state funds for this program from the California Department of Public Health but the state does not allow us to pay for food/snacks. In order to enable working moms to attend the evening sessions, we would like to send some healthy food/snacks to their homes so that they can attend without having to worry about putting food on the table, at least for the hour and a half

while they are in the Zoom training. We hope that we can purchase the food/snacks from Kitchenistas who have launched their own catering business in order to support small, women-owned businesses in the communities in which we work.

Involvement of Rotary Club Members

The Solana Beach Rotary Club can support and stay involved in our work by doing the following:

- Join our activities by participating in our monthly environmental justice regional action team (EJRAT) meetings. Our next meeting will be Thursday, July 1st from 5pm to 6:30pm. For more information, contact EHC's Regional Organizer Jorge Gonzalez at jorgeg@environmentalhealth.org.
- Follow us and share our posts (especially our media press releases) via our social media outlets on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#). Visit our website News and Update section and re-share any press releases to your group's list-serv: <https://www.environmentalhealth.org/index.php/en/more-ehc-news-and-updates>
- Once a year encourage and share our donation page to new Solana Beach Rotary Club members and beyond to become monthly donors \$5, \$10, \$25, etc.): https://www.environmentalhealth.org/index.php/en/?option=com_civicrm&task=civicrm/contribute/transact&reset=1&id=5