

The Whittier Sunrise Rotary Club requests authorization to redirect our DDF grant of \$1,347 for the Children's Outreach Concert of the Whittier Regional Symphony (Project P-3925). Because of pandemic restrictions, this concert could not be held in January. In its place, we would like to direct the grant and our club matching funds of \$1,653 to Amigos De Los Rios.

Amigos De Los Rios is a nonprofit organization whose "mission is to create an "Emerald Necklace" natural infrastructure network of green spaces (parks, trails and green schools) in underserved areas throughout the Los Angeles Basin, connecting the Mountains to the Sea, offering equitable access to nature, protecting our environment and protecting urban communities from the threats of climate change." For the past several years, our club has worked with Amigos De Los Rios to plant trees in the Whittier Narrows Regional Park and in school green areas. Over the past year this has expanded to creating butterfly gardens at local elementary schools in which several of our members were able to participate, and a garden is now being planned at California High School in Whittier with our Interact Club at that school.

We have provided a modest amount of support in this most recent effort by providing supplies for the construction of these gardens along with the Whittier Rotary Club which has been the lead club in this project. In previous tree planting events, our club has been the lead and have included members from the Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs and Whittier Rotary clubs along with most of our own members. Amigos De Los Rios has provided all of the trees and tools for these events and provided the milkweed plantings for the butterfly gardens.

We have not previously made a monetary contribution to Amigos, and it is time we paid back for the support they have provided and the opportunities for service they have provided our members. Though redirecting our grant will not fund a specific project during this Rotary year, it will contribute to a valuable, ongoing relationship of ours and other Rotary clubs with an organization whose purpose is very much in line with Rotary goals.

George Prather, PhD
Project Chair and
Secretary of the
Whittier Sunrise Rotary

Approved by District Grants Committee - May 2022