



For Immediate Release

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**EAST BAY CONSERVATION LEADER RECEIVES AUDUBON & TOYOTA
TOGETHERGREEN CONSERVATION FELLOWSHIP**

Prestigious Award Furthers Efforts of Local Leaders

New York, NY, June 21, 2012 – Toyota and the National Audubon Society today announced that Emily Sadigh of Berkeley has received a *TogetherGreen* Fellowship award. Sadigh received the fellowship award after a competitive nationwide selection process.

TogetherGreen, a conservation initiative of the National Audubon Society and Toyota, selects 40 high-potential local leaders annually to receive a \$10,000 grant. With the funds, Fellows conduct community projects to engage diverse audiences in habitat, water, or energy conservation. In addition to receiving support for launching their conservation initiatives, the Fellows also benefit from specialized training and the opportunity to become part of an exciting alumni network of conservation professionals.

“These are heroes. They help people engage with nature. They look like America: diverse, passionate, and patriotic,” said Audubon President David Yarnold. “Emily is a leader, and we’re pleased to give her a chance to invent the future.”

Sadigh is a sustainability project manager for Alameda County. She plans to harness her *TogetherGreen* fellowship to make it easier for the 9,000 employees of Alameda County to take energy- and habitat-conservation actions that involve connecting with other employees, such as carpooling, turning off shared equipment when not in use, ordering healthy produce from local farms, and ensuring their departments buy recommended green products. In a model inspired by

the self-organization of natural ecosystems, employee volunteer “green ambassadors” in 20 county agencies will serve as hubs for local sustainability action teams, create channels for rapid feedback, and share stories from other participants.

The *TogetherGreen* Fellowship Program invests in high-potential individuals from all backgrounds, providing them with resources, visibility, and a growing peer network to help them lead communities nationwide to a healthier environmental future. To date, 200 environmental leaders from across the country have been awarded *TogetherGreen* fellowships. These leaders have worked with nearly 500 organizations and engaged over 100,000 people in community-based conservation action, achieving results in habitat, water, and energy.

A complete list of the 2012 *TogetherGreen* Fellows, including those in Northern California, and details about their conservation projects can be found at www.TogetherGreen.org/fellows.

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About *TogetherGreen*

Audubon and Toyota launched the *TogetherGreen* initiative in 2008 to foster diverse environmental leadership and fund innovative conservation ideas. *TogetherGreen* funding recipients have helped protect 250 species of birds and other wildlife, improved 10,000 acres of habitat, mobilized 220,000 individuals, collected two million pounds of recyclables, and captured \$5 million worth of volunteer time. For more information, visit www.togethergreen.org.

About Audubon

Now in its second century, Audubon connects people with birds, nature, and the environment that supports us all. Our national network of community-based nature centers, chapters, scientific, education, and advocacy programs engages millions of people from all walks of life in conservation action to protect and restore the natural world. Visit Audubon online at www.audubon.org.

About Toyota

Toyota established operations in the United States in 1957 and currently operates 10 manufacturing plants and has a network of nearly 1,500 dealerships. Toyota directly employs over 30,000 in the U.S. and its investment here is currently valued at more than \$18 billion, including sales and manufacturing operations, research and development, financial services, and design

Toyota is committed to being a good corporate citizen in the communities where it does business and believes in supporting programs with long-term sustainable results. The company supports numerous organizations across the country focusing on education, the environment, and safety. Since 1991, Toyota has contributed over half-a-billion dollars to philanthropic programs in the U.S.

For more information on Toyota's commitment to improving communities nationwide, visit www.toyotainaction.com/community or www.toyota.com/community.