

Program Application: 83467146

Linked Pre-Application Form - DO NOT DELETE

Youth Field Trips for Community Climate Resilience

Grant Amount Requested

\$75,000.00

Organization Name

CompassPoint Mentorship

Urban Grant Program Application Questions

Overview

Type of project (check all that apply)

Grant category (check all that apply)

Environmental Education

Project Location: Address / Neighborhood

What is the physical location of the project? If there is no physical location, please enter "N/A." If the project will be in multiple locations, please list all. Note: project location(s) must be within the Authority's jurisdiction.

Throughout Santa Clara County. Up to 2 Open Space Authority preserves including Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve. Additionally local parks including Alum Rock Park and Alviso Marina County Park

Project Location

Open Space Authority District of Project Location(s)(check all that apply)

Authority District 1, Authority District 3, Authority District 6

Who does the project serve? Please indicate which Open Space Authority Districts are served (where do the people served by the program live) (check all that apply)

Authority District 1, Authority District 2, Authority District 3, Authority District 4, Authority District 5, Authority District 6, Authority District 7

Project Abstract

To provide curriculum-aligned field trips to local parks and Open Space Authority preserves for 384 unduplicated youth ages 9-18 from climate-vulnerable communities in Santa Clara County. Through hands-on environmental education, participants develop climate literacy, leadership skills, and connections to nature while learning about local ecosystems, conservation practices, and climate adaptation strategies. The program removes barriers to outdoor access by providing free transportation, meals, materials, and culturally responsive mentorship. Youth participate in citizen science through iNaturalist bioblitz events and create 360-degree virtual tours of Authority preserves, extending access to families throughout the region. Two Youth Nature Summit reunion events build sustained peer networks supporting long-term environmental action, transforming participants from historically underserved neighborhoods into environmental stewards and advocates.

Project Planning

Describe the proposed project.

Please include intended audience, location and whether the program meets Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). CompassPoint Mentorship will deliver a comprehensive environmental education field trip program serving 384 unduplicated youth ages 9-18 from climate-vulnerable communities within the Open Space Authority's jurisdiction. The program partners with K-12 schools, after-school programs, and community centers in neighborhoods experiencing disproportionate climate impacts—including extreme heat, poor air quality, and flooding—to provide structured, curriculum-aligned outdoor learning experiences at local parks, preserves, and Open Space Authority sites.

Alignment with Authority Mission and Priorities

This program directly advances the Open Space Authority's mission to conserve the natural environment and connect people to nature. By bringing youth from underserved communities to Authority preserves and local open spaces, we fulfill the Authority's vision of enriching communities through a vibrant network of interconnected natural areas while ensuring equitable access to these resources.

The program achieves multiple objectives of the Measure Q and T Expenditure Plan simultaneously. It supports environmental education—one of the four core priorities funded by these measures—while also increasing public access to open space and protecting water resources through hands-on education about creek health and water quality. By teaching youth about the ecological importance of preserved lands, we build long-term stewardship that protects scenic hillsides, wildlife habitat, and the natural resources these measures were designed to conserve.

Our work aligns with the Santa Clara Valley Greenprint's 30-year vision by connecting urban youth to the region's conservation priorities. Field trips demonstrate how open spaces provide multiple conservation values: drinking water protection through watershed education, flood protection through understanding of natural systems, biodiversity through wildlife observation, and climate resilience through nature-based solutions. The program advances the Greenprint's goal of connecting people to nature in their neighborhoods while building public understanding of why land conservation matters for community health and wellbeing.

As a project serving East San Jose and Alviso—areas within the Authority's Deep Engagement Communities that experience greater environmental burdens and barriers to nature access—this program directly addresses the Authority's equity priorities and Measure T's commitment to serving underserved populations by targeting neighborhoods identified as highest priority for enhanced environmental education and improved access to natural areas.

Target Audience and Educational Approach

Our primary audience consists of youth from East San Jose, Alviso, and other underserved neighborhoods characterized by limited green space, higher poverty rates, and greater exposure to environmental hazards. Many participants face significant barriers to outdoor access, including lack of transportation, financial constraints, and limited awareness of local natural resources.

Each field trip integrates hands-on environmental science with climate resilience education, connecting classroom learning to real-world challenges. Activities are designed to align with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and include:

- Guided nature walks exploring local ecosystems, native plant species, and wildlife habitat
- Water and air quality monitoring experiments that demonstrate ecosystem services
- Climate adaptation workshops covering urban greening, water conservation, and sustainable practices
- Storytelling sessions with diverse environmental professionals and community leaders
- Reflection and creative expression projects allowing youth to process their experiences
- Two Youth Nature Summit reunion events bringing together participants from multiple field trips to share environmental actions they've taken, support one another's ongoing stewardship efforts, and celebrate youth leadership

Community Partnerships and Program Delivery

We are partnering with Climate Resilient Communities (CRC) to co-design a climate adaptation curriculum that is specifically relevant to neighborhoods experiencing extreme heat, poor air quality, and flooding. CRC brings expertise in community-based climate action and has successfully collaborated with CompassPoint on climate initiatives in Alviso, including supporting the Climate Change Community Team. Alviso in Action will lead community outreach and recruitment in Alviso, utilizing their established networks within this Deep Engagement Community to connect with families facing the greatest barriers to outdoor access. We will formalize partnership agreements once grant funding is secured.

The program has strong support from elected officials representing our target communities. Councilmember David Cohen (District 4, representing Alviso) and County Supervisor Otto Lee (District 3, President of the Board of Supervisors) have provided letters of support, demonstrating government commitment to this initiative. These collaborations ensure program content reflects both scientific rigor and community needs. All activities are led by trained leading teachers who reflect the cultural and linguistic diversity of participants, creating culturally responsive learning environments.

Transportation, meals, materials, and all programming are provided at no cost to families, removing financial barriers to participation. The program will operate year-round, though primarily in the summer, with approximately 32 field trips serving groups of 12-13 youth each.

All programming emphasizes sustainable practices and materials. We use reusable equipment, provide healthy meals that minimize waste, and incorporate native plant identification into every field trip. Youth learn to recognize California native species—including those found in serpentine grasslands, riparian areas, and oak woodlands—and understand their importance in supporting local wildlife, conserving water resources, and maintaining the biodiversity that makes the Santa Clara Valley unique. By teaching youth to identify and value native plants, we foster stewardship of the specific habitats the Authority works to protect.

Upon completion of the grant period, we will make all curriculum materials, lesson plans, and evaluation tools publicly available through our website and offer to share them with the Open Space Authority's resource networks. This ensures other organizations can replicate or adapt our model,

extending the program's impact beyond direct participants. All field trip content will be designed for broad applicability, allowing schools and community groups throughout the region to benefit from materials developed through this grant.

The program provides interconnected benefits aligned with the Authority's comprehensive conservation approach. Environmentally, field trips teach youth to recognize and value native plant species, understand their role in supporting local wildlife and conserving water, and appreciate how open spaces protect water quality by filtering runoff and recharging groundwater—all priorities identified in the Greenprint's water conservation strategy. For social justice and equity, we remove financial and logistical barriers that prevent low-income families from accessing nature, directly addressing the Authority's commitment to Deep Engagement Communities. Public health benefits include physical activity in natural settings and mental health improvements documented through pre- and post-surveys, contributing to the Authority's vision of enriched, healthy communities.

Education benefits extend beyond participating youth: we create peer educators and community ambassadors who share knowledge with families and neighbors, multiplying our impact. By fostering environmental literacy about climate adaptation, watershed health, and habitat protection, we build the informed constituency needed to support ongoing conservation efforts—ensuring the next generation values and protecting the lands the Authority works to preserve.

Describe key project deliverables and estimated completion dates.

A deliverable is something produced as a result of this project. (e.g. events held, curriculum developed, educational programs delivered, etc.).

Deliverable 1: Field Trip Program Implementation

32 curriculum-aligned field trips to Open Space Authority sites and local parks

Each trip serves 12-13 youth ages 9-18, mostly students from East San Jose and Alviso, along with others from other parts of the Authority's jurisdiction

Total of 384 unduplicated youth participants

Completion: Ongoing throughout 2026 and 2027, with final trip by August 2027

Deliverable 2: Partnership Development and Site Coordination

Formalized partnership agreements with Climate Resilient Communities and Alviso in Action

Site access agreements with agencies to access up to 2 Open Space Authority preserves including Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve.

Additionally with local parks including Alum Rock Park and Alviso Marina County Park

School and community organization partnership MOUs (15+ partners)

Completion: Partnership agreements by April 2026; ongoing coordination throughout year

Deliverable 3: Curriculum Materials and Educational Resources

NGSS-aligned curriculum for each field trip including lesson plans, activity guides, and assessment tools

Native plant identification guides specific to Santa Clara Valley ecosystems

Water and air quality monitoring protocols and data collection forms

Climate resilience education modules

Completion: Core curriculum by May 2026; refinements ongoing based on participant feedback

Deliverable 4: Mentor Training Program

Comprehensive training for culturally diverse field trip mentors

Safety protocols, emergency procedures, and risk management training

Cultural competency and trauma-informed youth development training

Completion: Initial training by May 2026; ongoing professional development quarterly

Deliverable 5: Program Evaluation and Impact Documentation

Pre- and post-surveys measuring climate literacy, native plant knowledge, and environmental attitudes for all 384 unduplicated participants

Attendance and participation tracking documentation

Photographic and video documentation of field trips

Final evaluation report with outcome data and recommendations

Completion: Ongoing data collection throughout 2026; final report by January 2027

Deliverable 6: Publicly Available Program Resources

All curriculum materials, lesson plans, and evaluation tools made available on CompassPoint website

Resource sharing with Open Space Authority networks

Implementation guide for organizations seeking to replicate model

Completion: Resources published by September 2027

Deliverable 7: Youth Nature Summit Reunion Events

Two Youth Nature Summit gatherings bringing together participants from multiple field trips

Youth share environmental actions they've taken in their homes and communities

Peer-to-peer learning and mutual support for ongoing stewardship

Celebration of youth leadership and environmental advocacy

Completion: First summit Winter 2026/2027; Second summit Summer 2027

Does this project require permission, permits, or other approvals? If so, please describe the status of these.

Yes, this project requires several permissions and approvals:

Open Space Authority Site Access Permits:

Site access agreements with agencies to access up to 2 Open Space Authority preserves including Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve.

Additionally, site access agreements with local parks including Alum Rock Park and Alviso Marina County Park

Educational use permits for conducting structured programming on Authority lands

Status: We have not begun preliminary conversations with Open Space Authority staff regarding site access. Upon grant award, we will immediately formalize site-specific permit applications identifying exact locations, dates, group sizes, and activities. We anticipate a permit approval timeline of 4-6 weeks, allowing program launch by June 2026.

Transportation and Insurance Requirements:

Additional liability insurance riders covering youth transportation

Status: CompassPoint maintains comprehensive general liability insurance.

Partnership Agreements:

Partnership agreements with Climate Resilient Communities and Alviso in Action documenting roles, responsibilities, and resource sharing

Status: We have established working relationships with both partners. Climate Resilient Communities has collaborated with CompassPoint over the past year to support the Climate Change Community Team in Alviso, and Alviso in Action has successfully partnered with us on previous community initiatives including holiday events for Alviso families. Upon funding confirmation, we will formalize written agreements (estimated 3-4 weeks for negotiation and finalization).

Youth Participant Permissions:

Parental consent forms required for all participants under age 18

Photo/video release permissions for documentation purposes

Medical information and emergency contact documentation

Status: Standard consent form templates are prepared and will be distributed during recruitment. Collection occurs on a rolling basis as youth register.

Project Timeline Accounting for Approvals:

We have structured our implementation timeline to account for permit and approval processes:

March- May 2026: Submit all permit applications, finalize partnership MOUs, secure insurance riders

June 2026: Begin field trips once all approvals secured

June 2026- August 2027: Ongoing program delivery

Our 13-year track record managing youth programs demonstrates our understanding of permitting requirements and ability to secure necessary approvals in a timely manner. We have successfully navigated similar approval processes for our Public Art Program collaborations with Santa Clara County Parks, providing confidence in our capacity to manage Open Space Authority permitting efficiently.

What is the lifetime of this project? If applicable, describe plans for operating and maintaining the project in the future.

The field trip program is designed as an ongoing initiative that will continue beyond the grant period. CompassPoint Mentorship is committed to long-term program sustainability and is actively cultivating partnerships with local foundations, private donors, and public agencies to secure ongoing funding. Our organizational infrastructure includes established relationships with community groups and organizations, experienced environmental educators on staff, and proven capacity for program coordination and evaluation.

The field trips themselves contribute to stewardship of Authority lands by fostering positive relationships between youth and open spaces, building a constituency that values and protects these resources into the future. Participants who develop personal connections to local parks and preserves become advocates for their preservation and appropriate use, supporting the Authority's long-term conservation goals.

Describe the project's readiness for implementation.

Our program is ready to begin immediately upon funding. CompassPoint Mentorship has existing partnerships with Climate Resilient Communities and Alviso in Action, established protocols for youth programming, and staff experienced in outdoor education. We have confirmed collaboration with Climate Resilient Communities on climate curriculum development and with Alviso in Action on community outreach, providing a strong foundation for immediate implementation. We have identified potential field trip sites within the Authority's jurisdiction, including Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve, Alum Rock Park, and Alviso Marina County Park, and are ready to initiate site access discussions with the Open Space Authority upon funding. All necessary insurance, safety protocols, and organizational policies are in place for youth transportation and outdoor activities.

Project Budget

Budget Summary - Grant Request & Budget Summary - Matching Funds

Grant request: Personnel

\$10,000.00

Grant request: Contracted Services

\$16,450.00

Grant request: Supplies / Materials

\$36,200.00

Grant request: Other Direct Costs

\$7,450.00

Grant request: Indirect Costs

\$4,900.00

Total Matching Funds

\$70,960.00

Total Budget

\$75,000.00

Please upload a detailed version of your budget by accessing the link below:

UGP_Project_Budget_CompassPoint - Budget Form.pdf

Materials and Budget Template (item #9) found here: <https://www.openspaceauthority.org/programs/grant.html#Materials>

Provide a brief budget narrative to explain the expenses listed in each of the budget categories (e.g. Personnel).

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Personnel – \$40,000 (\$10,000 grant request / \$30,000 match)

Personnel costs support program coordination and implementation. The Project Manager will oversee scheduling, program design, partner coordination, compliance, and reporting at 10% FTE for 24 months (\$20,000), with \$10,000 requested from the grant and \$10,000 secured from Microsoft Foundation. An additional \$20,000 of volunteer project management support is committed as in-kind match to ensure effective delivery of 32 field trips.

Contracted Services – \$22,610 (\$21,450 grant request / \$1,160 match)

Specialized services are necessary for program quality and community trust. This includes trained field leading teachers for outdoor learning (32 trips × 2 leading teachers × 8 hours × \$30/hr = \$15,360), a community outreach specialist (\$2,250) to engage Alviso families and manage consent and safety protocols, and partner organizations Climate Resilient Communities and Alviso in Action (\$5,000 combined) to provide culturally relevant climate education and curriculum support. \$21,450 is not requested from the grant, and \$6,160 is committed as match.

Supplies and Materials – \$75,900 (\$36,100 grant request / \$39,800 match)

Program materials support hands-on learning and safe participation, including water testing kits (\$1,500), field science equipment (\$1,000), first aid and emergency supplies (\$200), educational materials (\$1,200), fuel (\$1,600), and multilingual outreach and printing (\$600).

Transportation is the most essential component of this program. Renting a 15–18 passenger van in the Bay Area costs \$800–\$1,000 per day, totaling \$25,600–\$32,000 for 32 trips, making rentals financially unsustainable. Instead, investing in a Ford Transit 350 15-passenger van (\$69,800) is a cost-effective, long-term solution. Ownership will significantly reduce transportation expenses over time and allow additional field trips with only minimal increases in cost (fuel and maintenance). This investment improves long-term program sustainability and ensures continued access to environmental education beyond the grant period. \$30,000 is requested from this grant, and \$39,800 in matching funds has already been secured through prior donations and program revenue.

Other Direct Costs – \$7,450 (fully grant-funded)

These costs ensure equitable participation and safety: meals and snacks for 384 youth participants (\$3,600), OSA site permits (\$1,600), liability insurance rider (\$1,500), and background checks for staff and leading teachers (\$750). These are fully requested from the grant.

Indirect Costs – \$4900 (fully grant-funded)

Administrative Overhead - 7% of the total request

Award Amount: The Board reserves the right to award partial funding on projects. If your project were to receive partial funding, what would this mean for your project?

If we received partial funding, we would reduce the number of field trips proportionally while maintaining program quality. For example, at \$50,000 we would deliver approximately 27 field trips serving 300+ youth, maintaining all other program elements including transportation, meals, and curriculum development.

Project Goals

Describe the specific problems, issues, or unserved needs the project will address.

Youth ages 9-18 in East San Jose and Alviso face critical barriers preventing access to environmental education and Open Space Authority sites. These neighborhoods—identified as Deep Engagement Communities in the Authority's Understanding Our Community Phase II report—experience compounded disadvantages creating urgent unserved needs.

Transportation as Primary Barrier

Census data shows high percentages of households in target communities lack vehicle access, making it virtually impossible to reach Authority preserves located outside urban centers. Even families with vehicles face constraints: parents working multiple jobs cannot spare time for multi-hour drives, and fuel costs represent significant financial burdens. Without free, coordinated transportation, youth remain isolated from the natural resources the Authority protects.

Financial Exclusion from Outdoor Education

Families in target areas qualify as disadvantaged communities based on median household income below 80% of Santa Clara County's median (\$91,702). Traditional environmental programs requiring fees, equipment purchases, or family-provided meals effectively exclude youth who would benefit most. Even modest costs create insurmountable barriers for low-income households.

Knowledge Gaps Preventing Climate Action

Youth lack basic understanding of local ecosystems, native species, watershed systems, and climate adaptation strategies. Without field-based environmental education connecting classroom science to real ecological systems, they cannot understand how natural areas protect water quality, reduce flooding, or provide cooling. This knowledge gap prevents them from becoming informed advocates for conservation and climate resilience in communities experiencing the highest environmental burdens.

Absence of Conservation Career Awareness

In Silicon Valley's technology-dominated culture, youth from underserved communities rarely see environmental careers as viable pathways. Lack of exposure to diverse environmental professionals and hands-on conservation experiences means talented students never consider careers in environmental science or land management—fields where communities of color remain significantly underrepresented. This perpetuates environmental justice issues where conservation decision-making lacks perspectives from most-affected communities.

Cultural Alienation from Outdoor Spaces

Youth of color experience alienation from outdoor spaces due to predominantly white mainstream environmental education and outdoor recreation culture. When mentors and participants don't reflect their backgrounds, youth internalize that nature "isn't for them." Immigrant families may lack familiarity with park systems or feel unwelcome, preventing generational transmission of environmental stewardship values. By addressing these interconnected barriers—transportation, financial exclusion, knowledge gaps, career pathway invisibility, and cultural alienation—this project creates transformative access to environmental education and Authority sites for youth facing the greatest need.

How does this project serve the community?

Number of people served

500

Number of youth served

384

Number of programs provided

32

Other Grantee Goal #1 (optional)

80% of youth demonstrating increased climate literacy (measured pre/post survey)

80% of youth can identify 5+ native plant and wildlife species

20% of youth take some sort of environmental action at home or in the community within 3 months of the field trip

50% of youth report increased awareness of how to visit regional parks and open space preserves independently (measured pre/post)

Other Grantee Goal #2 (optional)

2 Youth Nature Summit reunion events where participants share environmental actions and support one another

Impact

Describe the lasting impact of the project. Please include whether the program is open to the public and whether any materials developed will be available to the public.

The program creates lasting impact through multiple pathways. Youth participants gain foundational environmental knowledge and leadership skills that position them as peer educators and community ambassadors, multiplying program reach beyond the initial 384 unduplicated participants as they share learning with families and neighbors. Through two Youth Nature Summit reunion events, participants reconnect to share environmental actions they've implemented in their homes and communities, learn from peers' successes and challenges, and strengthen their networks of mutual support—reinforcing long-term behavioral change and sustaining momentum for youth-led environmental advocacy beyond individual field trips. These summits transform isolated experiences into an ongoing movement of young environmental stewards.

By fostering personal connections between youth and local open spaces—particularly Authority preserves—we build a constituency that values and advocates for land conservation into adulthood, supporting the Authority's long-term stewardship goals. Participants who develop these connections become advocates for preservation and appropriate use of natural areas, creating a generation of informed voters and community leaders who understand why conservation matters.

All curriculum materials, lesson plans, and evaluation tools will be made publicly available, allowing other organizations throughout the region to replicate or adapt our model. This extends impact far beyond direct participants and the grant period. The program is designed as an ongoing initiative; we are actively securing additional funding to sustain operations beyond this grant cycle through partnerships with local foundations, businesses, and public agencies.

Most significantly, youth from historically underserved communities develop agency as environmental advocates. By understanding how open spaces protect water quality, provide climate resilience, and support biodiversity, participants become informed voices for conservation in neighborhoods that have been excluded from environmental decision-making. This shifts power dynamics and ensures future conservation efforts reflect the needs and values of all communities in Santa Clara County.

Climate Resilience

How does this project enhance and/or raise awareness about climate resilience? Please include any metrics that can be used to help quantify or understand the climate benefits of the project.

This program directly builds community climate resilience by equipping youth from climate-vulnerable neighborhoods with knowledge and skills to understand and respond to climate impacts. Through hands-on learning about urban heat island effects, water conservation, air quality, and flood management, participants develop practical understanding of how natural systems provide climate protection and how communities can adapt to changing conditions.

Field trips to Authority preserves and local open spaces demonstrate nature-based climate solutions in action. Youth observe how protected watersheds filter and store water, reducing flood risk downstream; how native vegetation provides cooling and improves air quality; and how connected habitat corridors support biodiversity under climate stress. These experiences translate abstract climate concepts into tangible, locally relevant understanding.

The program raises climate resilience awareness beyond participants through our peer educator model. Youth who complete the program share knowledge with families, friends, and neighbors, spreading understanding of climate risks and solutions throughout Deep Engagement Communities. By focusing on neighborhoods already experiencing disproportionate climate impacts—extreme heat, poor air quality, flooding—we target communities most in need of climate adaptation resources and information.

Activities explicitly connect to climate adaptation strategies: urban greening workshops teach how trees reduce heat; water quality monitoring demonstrates watershed protection; conservation discussions explore how open space preservation maintains ecosystem services essential for climate resilience. Youth learn not only about climate challenges but also about actionable solutions they can advocate for in their communities, from supporting tree planting initiatives to protecting remaining open spaces from development.

Community Engagement / Stakeholder Support / Community Building

Describe the community support and/or community engagement process. Please upload any community support letters in the Documents Upload section below.

CompassPoint Mentorship has cultivated deep community relationships in East San Jose and Alviso over 13 years of youth programming in these neighborhoods. Our community engagement for this field trip program builds on existing trusted partnerships and adds strategic collaborations with environmental education and grassroots organizations.

Foundation of Community Trust

Since 2013, CompassPoint Mentorship has successfully delivered programs in Alviso and throughout Santa Clara County, including summer camps and public art projects that required extensive community engagement. Our Public Art Program at Alviso Marina County Park, Stevens Creek County Park, and Hellyer County Park involved conducting 50+ community surveys per project to ensure murals reflected local values and cultural heritage. This track record demonstrates our commitment to community-centered program design.

For this field trip initiative, we have secured strong support from elected officials and established partnerships with community organizations whose missions and connections align with program goals:

Government Support:

Council member David Cohen, PhD (District 4): Representing Alviso, Councilmember Cohen's office has worked with CompassPoint Mentorship in the past to facilitate summer camp programming bringing educational experiences to Alviso children. His letter affirms the program addresses critical barriers preventing youth in Alviso from accessing quality environmental education and Open Space Authority preserves.

Supervisor Otto Lee (District 3, Board President): As County Supervisor and President of the Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Lee's office will support CompassPoint Mentorship with outreach in Alviso and other underserved areas in District 3. His letter demonstrates county-level commitment to serving underserved communities and increasing environmental education.

Community Partnerships:

- Climate Resilient Communities contributes climate adaptation curriculum specifically relevant to neighborhoods experiencing extreme heat, poor air quality, and flooding. Over the past year, CRC has partnered with CompassPoint Mentorship to support the Climate Change Community Team in Alviso, successfully transitioning youth from summer camp participants into professional internship roles. This proven collaboration ensures program content reflects both scientific rigor and community climate resilience needs.

- Alviso in Action leads outreach and recruitment in Alviso, utilizing their established networks within this Deep Engagement Community to connect with families facing the greatest barriers to outdoor access. Having successfully collaborated with CompassPoint Mentorship on previous community initiatives including holiday events for Alviso families, they bring strong community trust and credibility essential for authentic engagement and culturally responsive programming that honors Alviso's unique identity as a waterfront community.

Letters of Support

We have secured letters of support from Councilmember Cohen, Supervisor Lee, Climate Resilient Communities, and Alviso in Action, demonstrating strong stakeholder commitment to this collaborative approach. These partnerships bridge county government, grassroots community organizations, and climate resilience expertise—creating a coordinated effort that amplifies impact across all sectors.

Community-Responsive Design

By providing free transportation, meals, and culturally responsive mentorship, we remove obstacles preventing families in Deep Engagement Communities from accessing Authority preserves. Our existing relationships with schools, community centers, and cultural organizations in target neighborhoods provide recruitment pathways and ensure program delivery reflects community needs and values.

Ongoing Community Accountability

CompassPoint Mentorship's consistent 5-star ratings from families reflect our responsiveness to community feedback. We will maintain this accountability through program evaluation tools, including pre- and post-surveys with all 500+ participants, and by making curriculum materials publicly available so other organizations throughout the region can adapt our model to serve their communities.

Underserved Communities

Describe how the project addresses open space needs for sensitive populations such as residents of park-poor neighborhoods, underserved, or disadvantaged communities, youth, seniors, persons with disabilities, or is located within an under-resourced community.

This program is specifically designed to serve youth ages 9-18 from East San Jose and Alviso—neighborhoods within the Authority's Deep Engagement Communities that experience greater environmental burdens and barriers to accessing nature. According to the Authority's Understanding Our Community Phase II report, these areas face compounded disadvantages including limited proximity to open space, lack of transportation access, higher rates of poverty, and disproportionate exposure to environmental hazards.

Data-Supported Community Need:

Our target communities meet multiple criteria for disadvantaged and underserved status:

CalEnviroScreen: East San Jose neighborhoods score in the top 25% of California communities for environmental burden, indicating high pollution exposure combined with population vulnerability factors

Park Access: According to Trust for Public Land's ParkScore analysis referenced in Understanding Our Community, significant portions of our service area fall outside the 10-minute walk (half-mile) service area to parks and open space

Income: Census tract data shows our target neighborhoods qualify as disadvantaged communities based on median household income below 80% of Santa Clara County's median (\$91,702), with many families earning less than 60% of county median

Transportation Barriers: Census data indicates high percentages of households without vehicle access in our service areas, creating significant obstacles to reaching Authority preserves and natural areas outside urban neighborhoods

Environmental Justice: These communities experience disproportionate climate impacts including urban heat island effects, poor air quality from traffic and industrial pollution, and flood risk—issues documented in the Understanding Our Community report's health and environmental burden mapping

Youth as Priority Population:

The program exclusively serves youth (ages 9-18), a population the Authority has identified as critical for building long-term conservation support and environmental stewardship. Understanding Our Community Phase II maps show high densities of children in our target areas, yet these same neighborhoods lack nearby community gardens, urban farms, and accessible natural spaces. By removing all cost barriers—providing free transportation, meals, materials, and programming—we address the financial constraints that prevent low-income families from accessing outdoor education opportunities.

Skills Development and Leadership Training:

Beyond environmental education, the program provides substantive skills development opportunities aligned with the Authority's priorities for underserved youth:

Peer Educator Training: Youth who complete multiple field trips receive training to become peer educators, developing public speaking, curriculum delivery, and mentorship skills while sharing environmental knowledge with younger students

Environmental Science Skills: Participants gain hands-on experience with water and air quality monitoring, native plant identification, and ecosystem observation—foundational skills for environmental careers

Leadership Development: Through reflection activities, group facilitation, and community ambassador roles, youth develop leadership competencies including advocacy, collaborative decision-making, and project planning

Career Pathways Exposure: Storytelling sessions with diverse environmental professionals expose youth to conservation career possibilities, many learning for the first time that people who look like them work in environmental fields

These skills directly benefit at-risk youth by providing positive mentorship, building confidence and agency, and offering pathways to environmental careers—fields where communities of color and low-income populations remain significantly underrepresented.

Culturally Responsive Programming:

All field trip activities are led by leading teachers who reflect the cultural and linguistic diversity of participants, addressing the alienation many youth of color experience in predominantly white outdoor spaces. We design programming in partnership with community organizations already embedded in these neighborhoods, ensuring cultural relevance and community trust.

Addressing Barriers Identified in Understanding Our Community:

The Authority's community assessment identified specific barriers our program directly addresses:

Transportation: We provide all transportation, eliminating the #1 barrier to open space access

Cost: All programming, meals, and materials are free, removing financial barriers

Awareness: Many families don't know about nearby Authority preserves; our program introduces youth and families to these resources

Safety concerns: Group field trips with trained teachers address safety fears that prevent families from visiting unfamiliar natural areas

Lack of connection: Youth from immigrant families often lack generational knowledge of local ecosystems; our program builds new connections to place

By targeting Deep Engagement Communities, using Authority-identified data sources to demonstrate need, serving exclusively youth from disadvantaged populations, and providing concrete skills development, this program aligns precisely with the Authority's commitment to environmental justice and equitable access to nature.

Organizational Capacity

Briefly describe the organization and its ability to successfully implement this project. This might include successful past projects, key staff qualifications, financial resources, etc.

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If the applicant is a Fiscal Sponsor, please describe both the Fiscal Sponsor and the sponsored organization.

Founded in 2012, CompassPoint Mentorship has demonstrated over a decade of successful youth program implementation serving diverse Silicon Valley communities. Our mission—helping children convert ideas into world-changing actions through education, mentorship, and leadership opportunities—aligns directly with the environmental stewardship and climate resilience goals of this Open Space Authority project.

Proven Track Record of Successful Projects

CompassPoint Mentorship has successfully managed multiple complex youth programs requiring similar logistical coordination, partnership development, and outcome measurement as this proposed field trip initiative:

Public Art Program: Successfully completed major public murals at Alviso Marina County Park, Stevens Creek County Park, and Hellyer County Park, demonstrating our capacity to work effectively with Santa Clara County Parks—a key indicator of our ability to partner successfully with the Open Space Authority. These projects required coordinating 25+ high school students, securing permits and approvals, managing artist collaborations, conducting community engagement (50+ surveys per project), and ensuring safe on-site youth programming. Projects typically budget \$30,000-\$40,000, demonstrating financial management capacity comparable to this \$75,000 request.

Emergency Response Committee: Showcases our ability to integrate technology with community service, as 12 youth members design projects using drone technology for social good including watershed monitoring partnerships with Valley Water and training San Jose first responders. This partnership with a major water management agency demonstrates our credibility with environmental organizations and our capacity for developing meaningful collaborative relationships.

Partnership Development Success: Our established relationships include California Arts Council (grant funding), Valley Water (watershed education partnerships), Santa Clara County Parks (multiple facility collaborations), Jessup University (college mentor partnerships), and numerous community organizations across Asian American, Latinx, and African American communities. These partnerships demonstrate our ability to cultivate and maintain the collaborative relationships essential for successful Open Space Authority field trip implementation.

Key Staff Qualifications

Catherine Liu, Executive Director (Project Lead): Brings exceptional qualifications for managing this program:

20 years of high-tech project and program management expertise enabling sophisticated budget tracking, outcome measurement, and timeline management

M.S. in Information Systems from Carnegie Mellon University and B.A. in Business from Renming University in Beijing

Executive Director of CompassPoint Mentorship since 2013, successfully administering multiple grant programs and managing complex youth programming budgets

Established youth committees in Data Science for Social Justice, Water Conservation, Environmental Justice, and Youth Policy & Civic Engagement—directly relevant to this project's environmental focus

Successfully managed overnight camp programs and coordinated transportation logistics for 100+ participants

Bilingual capabilities and cultural competency working with Asian American, Latinx, and African American communities—essential for serving Deep Engagement Communities

Consistently achieves 5-star ratings from families, demonstrating exceptional program quality and customer satisfaction

Megan Fluke, Executive Consultant and Community Outreach Specialist: Provides critical environmental expertise and community connections:

Over 20 years of nonprofit leadership and community organizing experience across Bay Area diverse communities

10 years as Executive Director of Green Foothills, providing deep knowledge of environmental conservation, land use, and advocacy

B.A. in Environmental Studies from San Jose State University

Certified Co-Active Professional Coach, uniquely positioning her to support youth leadership development

Active roles on Santa Clara County Sustainability Commission and as Chair of Rotary San Jose's Environmental Sustainability Committee, providing direct connections to community leaders throughout target service areas

Grassroots organizing background enables authentic partnership development with community organizations serving underserved populations

Supporting Infrastructure: CompassPoint Mentorship has successfully recruited and managed specialized staff for program delivery for over a decade, including youth counselors, transportation coordinators, safety personnel, and community outreach specialists. Catherine's established hiring and training processes ensure we can quickly build the team needed for this program.

Financial Resources and Stability

CompassPoint Mentorship demonstrates financial capacity through:

Successfully managing grant programs from California Arts Council, Valley Water, Santa Clara County, and other funders

Managing project budgets ranging from \$30,000-\$40,000 (Public Art projects) demonstrating capacity for the \$75,000 request

Established financial management systems including budget tracking, expense documentation, and grant reporting

Proven ability to leverage funding through partnerships, securing in-kind support and collaborative resources that extend program impact

Organizational Systems and Protocols

Essential infrastructure is already in place for immediate program launch:

Insurance and Safety: All necessary liability insurance, safety protocols, and organizational policies for youth transportation and outdoor activities

Youth Programming Experience: Established protocols for working with ages 9-18, including behavior management, emergency procedures, and parent communication systems

Transportation Coordination: Proven experience coordinating charter bus services, managing pickup/dropoff logistics, and ensuring safe youth transport

Partnership Management: Existing relationships with schools, community centers, and cultural organizations providing recruitment pathways

Outcome Measurement: Sophisticated program tracking systems enabling pre/post surveys, attendance monitoring, and impact documentation required for grant reporting

Community Credibility and Trust

Our deep relationships across Asian and Latinx communities in Silicon Valley—combined with growing connections in African American communities—position us uniquely to reach youth in East San Jose and Alviso. Our reputation as responsive, culturally competent, and high-quality has been built through consistent 5-star family ratings and successful community partnerships over 13 years.

Through proven project success, qualified leadership, established partnerships, financial stability, and comprehensive operational infrastructure, CompassPoint Mentorship demonstrates the organizational capacity to successfully implement the Youth Field Trips for Community Climate Resilience program and deliver measurable impact for the Open Space Authority's environmental education and equity goals.

Leadership & Innovation

Describe how this project employs innovative approaches or encourages collaboration and partnerships.

CompassPoint Mentorship brings proven innovation to environmental education through our distinctive organizational approach that fundamentally reimagines how programs serve historically marginalized communities in Silicon Valley.

Rapid Adaptation and Community Responsiveness

What truly distinguishes CompassPoint Mentorship is our organizational nimbleness—our ability to quickly respond to emerging community needs and adapt programming in real-time. Executive Director Catherine Liu's 20 years of high-tech project management expertise combined with her decade-plus experience managing youth programming enables sophisticated program tracking and rapid iteration based on participant feedback. This agility has consistently resulted in 5-star ratings from families and allowed us to maintain programming continuity even during challenging periods when many organizations struggled.

Founded in 2012, CompassPoint Mentorship has built a reputation as "the nimble connector" in Silicon Valley's youth development landscape.

Unlike traditional programs with rigid structures, we design mutual benefit opportunities that serve partner organizations' existing goals while expanding their youth's access to transformative experiences. When we partner with schools, community centers, or cultural organizations, we co-create programming addressing their specific needs—whether that's STEM curriculum enhancement, cultural celebration, or community engagement—while simultaneously advancing our mission of youth empowerment and community connection.

Innovative Cross-Cultural Bridge-Building

Our most significant innovation lies in designing for cross-cultural collaboration rather than serving single demographic groups. By bringing together Asian American, Latinx, African American, and other youth demographics through shared experiences, we address the geographic and cultural isolation that prevents meaningful collaboration in Silicon Valley's diverse communities. This approach yields innovation in program design itself: we create multilingual promotional materials, design culturally appropriate outreach strategies, and develop activities honoring diverse cultural perspectives.

For our field trips program, this means teachers who reflect participants' cultural and linguistic diversity—a deliberate strategy ensuring youth of Color see themselves as environmental leaders rather than perpetuating the predominantly white outdoor recreation culture that alienates communities of color. Our deep relationships across Asian and Latinx communities in Silicon Valley, combined with our commitment to serving African American youth, positions us uniquely to facilitate authentic collaboration where young people develop both environmental knowledge and cultural competency.

Innovative Technology Integration for Environmental Education

Our field trip program integrates cutting-edge technology to enhance learning, documentation, and accessibility in ways that advance environmental education practice:

iNaturalist Community Science: Youth participate in organized "bioblitz" events using the iNaturalist app to document and identify species they encounter on field trips. This approach transforms participants into citizen scientists contributing real data to global biodiversity databases while developing species identification skills. By connecting youth observations to a worldwide scientific community, we demonstrate how their local actions contribute to broader conservation knowledge—making environmental stewardship feel relevant and impactful beyond their immediate experience.

360-Degree Documentation: We use 360-degree cameras to capture immersive documentation of field trip sites, creating virtual tours that participants can revisit and share with families who cannot physically access remote preserves. These panoramic images will be uploaded to Google Maps, making Authority preserves more discoverable and less intimidating for families unfamiliar with these spaces. This innovation addresses the "safety concerns" and "lack of awareness" barriers identified in the Authority's Understanding Our Community assessment—when families can

virtually explore a location before visiting, they feel more comfortable making that first trip independently.

Extending Access Through Technology: By creating these digital resources, we multiply program impact far beyond the 500+ direct participants. Families throughout Santa Clara County can virtually experience Authority preserves, teachers can use our 360-degree tours in classroom instruction, and youth who completed field trips can show peers and family members exactly where they went and what they learned. This technological approach makes our curriculum materials not just readable documents but immersive experiences that inspire future visits.

Collaborative Partnership Approach

This program exemplifies our collaborative approach through strategic partnerships that bridge organizational silos, connect government support with grassroots community engagement, and intentionally expand who participates in conservation work by bringing greater diversity of voices and perspectives into environmental stewardship.

Our Youth Nature Summit reunion model creates an ongoing community among participants rather than one-off experiences, building sustained peer networks that support long-term environmental action and advocacy—an innovative approach to ensuring field trip impacts extend beyond the initial experience.

Climate Resilient Communities (CRC): Partnering on curriculum development focused on climate adaptation strategies specifically relevant to vulnerable neighborhoods experiencing extreme heat, poor air quality, and flooding. CRC's expertise in community-based climate action, combined with our year-long collaboration supporting Alviso's Climate Change Community Team, ensures the curriculum reflects both scientific rigor and lived community experience. Their track record of successfully transitioning our youth from summer camp participants into professional internship roles demonstrates the depth and effectiveness of this partnership. By centering climate justice and community resilience rather than traditional conservation narratives, this partnership helps diversify who sees themselves as part of the conservation community.

Alviso in Action: Partnering on community outreach and recruitment in Alviso, utilizing their established networks within this Deep Engagement Community to connect with families facing the greatest barriers to outdoor access. Their local knowledge ensures our program design reflects Alviso residents' specific needs and cultural contexts, and their community credibility helps build trust with families who have historically been excluded from conservation programming. Having successfully collaborated with us on community initiatives including holiday events for Alviso families, they bring proven capacity for authentic engagement that honors Alviso's unique identity as a waterfront community. Through this partnership, we bring Latinx and immigrant families—who have been underrepresented in environmental education—into meaningful connection with Open Space Authority preserves, expanding the conservation community to reflect the diversity of Santa Clara County.

Government Partners: Strong support from Councilmember David Cohen (District 4, representing Alviso) and County Supervisor Otto Lee (District 3, Board President) demonstrates institutional commitment to this program. Councilmember Cohen's office has facilitated our summer camp programming in Alviso, while Supervisor Lee's office will support outreach in underserved areas throughout District 3. This government backing provides credibility, opens doors for site access coordination, and signals to families that this program has official community support. Elected officials representing Deep Engagement Communities championing environmental education sends a powerful message that conservation is for everyone, not just affluent communities.

These partnerships demonstrate our ability to connect youth programs with county government, grassroots community organizations, and climate resilience expertise in ways that amplify impact across all partners. Rather than operating in isolation, we create collaborative networks where youth voice, community needs, and environmental conservation goals advance together. Most importantly, by partnering with organizations deeply rooted in communities of color and securing government support from representatives of underserved districts, we actively diversify the conservation movement—ensuring that the next generation of environmental stewards and advocates reflects the rich cultural diversity of Silicon Valley. When youth from East San Jose and Alviso develop personal connections to Authority preserves and see teachers who look like them leading environmental education, we fundamentally expand who belongs in conservation spaces and who shapes conservation decisions.

Through organizational nimbleness, cross-cultural collaboration, integration of artistic and technological approaches, comprehensive equity practices, and strategic partnership development, CompassPoint Mentorship brings genuine innovation to environmental education while strengthening collaborative conservation efforts across Santa Clara County.

Documents Section

Document Uploads (please combine into one file if possible)

Combined 4 Letter of Support.pdf

Additional files (if needed)

2025 Field Trip Pictures .pdf

Additional files (if needed)

2025 UGP Resolution CompassPoint.pdf

Submitted Date - Internal

Summary Field:

Name: Average Score (no bonus)

Form: Staff Review

Summary Type: average

Field: Base Score Total

Decimal: 2

Currency: No

Description/Help Text: NONE

Short Name: NONE

Field Purpose: NONE

Filter:

- ALL:
 - isComplete | is | true

Summary Field:

Name: Total Count of Submitted Reviews

Form: Staff Review

Summary Type: count

Field: NONE

Decimal: NONE

Currency: No

Description/Help Text: NONE

Short Name: NONE

Field Purpose: NONE

Filter:

- ALL:
 - isComplete | is | true
 - Folder | is | Submitted

Program Application: File Attachments

Please upload a detailed version of your budget by accessing the link below:

UGP_Project_Budget_CompassPoint - Budget Form.pdf

Document Uploads (please combine into one file if possible)

Combined 4 Letter of Support.pdf

Additional files (if needed)

2025 Field Trip Pictures .pdf

Additional files (if needed)

2025 UGP Resolution CompassPoint.pdf

Otto Lee

County of Santa Clara Supervisor, Third District

County Government Center, East Wing

70 West Hedding Street, 10th Floor

San Jose, California 95110

Tel: (408) 299-5030 Fax: (408) 298-6637

supervisor.lee@bos.sccgov.org www.supervisorlee.org



October 10, 2025

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

33 Las Colinas Lane

San José, CA 95119

RE: Letter of Support for CompassPoint Mentorship's Youth Field Trips for Community Climate Resilience Program

Dear Members of the Review Committee,

As the County Supervisor for Santa Clara County District 3 and President of the Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express my strong support for CompassPoint Mentorship's application to the 2025 Urban Grant Program for their Youth Field Trips for Community Climate Resilience program.

My office will support CompassPoint with outreach in Alviso and other underserved areas in District 3 of Santa Clara County. We have observed firsthand the critical barriers preventing youth in Alviso from accessing quality environmental education and Open Space Authority preserves. CompassPoint's comprehensive approach—providing free transportation, meals, culturally responsive mentorship, and NGSS-aligned curriculum—directly addresses the needs we see daily in our community.

I have confidence in CompassPoint Mentorship's ability to successfully implement this program based on their track record of youth programming and demonstrated commitment to serving underserved communities. Their organizational nimbleness and deep community relationships position them uniquely to reach the 500+ youth from Deep Engagement Communities this program aims to serve.

This program aligns with my priorities as a County Supervisor to support underserved communities and increase environmental education in the County. By building climate literacy and fostering connections to nature among youth who face the greatest barriers to outdoor access, this initiative creates the foundation for long-term community stewardship of our region's natural resources.

Thank you for your consideration of this important program which will have great benefit for the community I represent. Please feel free to contact me at Supervisor.Lee@bos.sccgov.org.

Sincerely,

Otto O. Lee
Board President

October 10, 2025

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
33 Las Colinas Lane
San José, CA 95119

RE: Letter of Support for CompassPoint Mentorship's Youth Field Trips for Community Climate Resilience Program

Dear Members of the Review Committee,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for CompassPoint Mentorship's application to the 2025 Urban Grant Program for their Youth Field Trips for Community Climate Resilience program.

Our Partnership Role: As the San Jose City Councilmember representing the community of Alviso, my office has worked with CompassPoint Mentorship in the past to help facilitate their summer camp programming that brings a wide variety of educational programing to the children of Alviso.

Why This Program Matters: We have observed firsthand the critical barriers preventing youth in Alviso from accessing quality environmental education and Open Space Authority preserves. CompassPoint's comprehensive approach—providing free transportation, meals, culturally responsive mentorship, and NGSS-aligned curriculum—directly addresses the needs we see daily in our community.

CompassPoint's Capacity: We have confidence in CompassPoint Mentorship's ability to successfully implement this program based on their track record of youth programming and demonstrated commitment to serving underserved communities. Their organizational nimbleness and deep community relationships position them uniquely to reach the 500+ youth from Deep Engagement Communities this program aims to serve.

Community Impact: This program aligns with my office's mission of fostering educational opportunities to strengthen environmental education and conservation efforts throughout Santa Clara County. By building climate literacy and fostering connections to nature among youth who face the greatest barriers to outdoor access, this initiative creates the foundation for long-term community stewardship of our region's natural resources.

We strongly support CompassPoint Mentorship's application and look forward to our partnership in making transformative environmental education accessible to all youth in Santa Clara County.

Sincerely,



Councilmember David Cohen, PhD



October 10th, 2025

Letter of Recommendation

Re: Letter of Support for CompassPoint Mentorship's Youth Field Trips for Community Climate Resilience Program

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
33 Las Colinas Lane
San José, CA 95119

Dear Members of the Review Committee,

Climate Resilient Communities is pleased to provide this letter of support for CompassPoint Mentorship's application to the 2025 Urban Grant Program for their Youth Field Trips for Community Climate Resilience program.

Our Partnership Role: Over the past year, we have partnered closely with CompassPoint Mentorship to support CRC and Alviso in Action's Climate Change Community Team in Alviso. CompassPoint has proven to be a reliable and dependable partner, seamlessly bridging the gap between youth engagement and community climate action. They have successfully transitioned youth from summer camp participants into professional internship roles, providing them with meaningful opportunities to contribute to programs and projects that advance climate change impact understanding for Alviso residents who are members of the Climate Change Community Team.

CompassPoint has consistently provided thoughtful and qualified youth to support Climate Change Community Team events, including our gardening workshop and our upcoming Disaster Preparedness workshop. Their mentorship model not only develops environmental literacy among young people but also cultivates the leadership skills necessary for long-term community resilience.

Why This Program Matters: We have observed firsthand the critical barriers preventing youth in Alviso from accessing quality environmental education and Open Space Authority preserves. CompassPoint's comprehensive approach—providing free transportation, meals, culturally responsive mentorship, and NGSS-aligned curriculum—directly addresses the needs we see daily in our community.

CompassPoint's Capacity: We have confidence in CompassPoint Mentorship's ability to successfully implement this program based on their track record of youth programming and demonstrated commitment to serving underserved communities. Their organizational

nimbleness and deep community relationships position them uniquely to reach the 500+ youth from Deep Engagement Communities this program aims to serve.

Community Impact: This program aligns with our organization's mission of **[brief connection to partner's mission]** and will strengthen environmental education and conservation efforts throughout Santa Clara County. By building climate literacy and fostering connections to nature among youth who face the greatest barriers to outdoor access, this initiative creates the foundation for long-term community stewardship of our region's natural resources.

We strongly support CompassPoint Mentorship's application and look forward to our continued partnership in making transformative environmental education accessible to all youth in Santa Clara County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Saena", is written over a light gray circular stamp. The stamp contains the text "Climate Resilient Communities" and "violet.saena@crcommunities.org" in a smaller font.

Violet Saena
Founder & Executive Director
Climate Resilient Communities
violet.saena@crcommunities.org
crcommunities.org or @CRCommunities

Alviso In Action 501(c)3

P.O. BOX 713 Alviso CA, 95002
(669) 377-5657



October 9, 2025

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
33 Las Colinas Lane
San José, CA 95119

RE: Letter of Support for CompassPoint Mentorship's Youth Field Trips for Community Climate Resilience Program

Dear Members of the Review Committee,

Alviso in Action is pleased to provide this letter of strong support for CompassPoint Mentorship's application to the 2025 Urban Grant Program for their Youth Field Trips for Community Climate Resilience program.

Our Partnership Role:

Alviso in Action will partner with CompassPoint on community outreach and recruitment in Alviso, utilizing our established networks within this Deep Engagement Community to connect with families facing the greatest barriers to outdoor access. Having successfully collaborated with CompassPoint Mentorship on previous community initiatives including holiday events for Alviso families, we have built a strong foundation of trust and shared commitment to serving our community. Our local knowledge and community credibility will help build trust with families who have historically been excluded from conservation programming, ensuring this initiative truly serves those with the greatest need. We will leverage our relationships with local residents and community networks to ensure authentic engagement and culturally responsive programming that honors Alviso's unique identity as a waterfront community.

Why This Program Matters:

We have observed firsthand the critical barriers preventing youth in Alviso from accessing quality environmental education and Open Space Authority preserves. Despite living adjacent to the San Francisco Bay and remarkable wetland ecosystems that make Alviso "a destination for those who find beauty in nature," many of our young people have never had structured opportunities to explore and understand these natural treasures. CompassPoint's comprehensive approach—providing free transportation, meals, culturally responsive mentorship, and NGSS-aligned curriculum—directly addresses the needs we see daily in our community. For families in Alviso, where transportation challenges, economic constraints, and

language barriers create significant obstacles, this program removes the very real barriers that have kept our youth from experiencing the environmental wonders in their own backyard.

CompassPoint's Capacity:

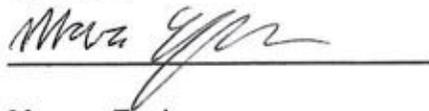
We have confidence in CompassPoint Mentorship's ability to successfully implement this program based on their track record of youth programming and our firsthand experience collaborating with them on community initiatives. Their demonstrated commitment to genuine community partnership and their organizational nimbleness position them uniquely to reach the 500+ youth from Deep Engagement Communities this program aims to serve. CompassPoint's willingness to work alongside grassroots organizations like ours—rather than imposing external models—reflects the cultural humility and community-centered approach necessary for meaningful impact in Alviso.

Community Impact:

This program aligns perfectly with Alviso in Action's mission to improve environmental conditions in Alviso by protecting and preserving the community from environmental impacts, and our vision of a cleaner Alviso with improvements to amenities for the public along with preservation and protection for the environment. By building climate literacy and fostering connections to nature among youth who face the greatest barriers to outdoor access—particularly in a community experiencing the frontline impacts of sea level rise and environmental change—this initiative creates the foundation for long-term community stewardship of our region's natural resources. It will strengthen environmental education and conservation efforts throughout Santa Clara County while preparing the next generation of Alviso residents to be informed advocates and stewards of the unique environmental aspects that define our community.

We strongly support CompassPoint Mentorship's application and look forward to continuing our partnership in making transformative environmental education accessible to all youth in Santa Clara County, especially those in communities like Alviso that have been historically marginalized in conservation spaces.

Sincerely,



Marcos Espinoza
President
Alviso in Action

















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RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02

Resolution of the Board of Directors of CompassPoint Mentorship, authorizing CompassPoint Mentorship to enter into a grant agreement for funding for a \$75,000 grant under the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority Urban Grant Program for Youth Field Trips for Community Climate Resilience, located throughout Santa Clara County;

Whereas, in accordance with the voter-approved Measure T Expenditure Plan, the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (Authority) has established a competitive Urban Grant Program (the Program) for projects that provide healthy and safe open space and park areas and environmental education programs within and near urban areas of Santa Clara County; and

Whereas, CompassPoint Mentorship has identified Youth Field Trips for Community Climate Resilience (Project) at various locations throughout Santa Clara County, including up to 2 Open Space Authority preserves (including Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve) and local parks (including Alum Rock Park and Alviso Marina County Park) as a priority project; and

Whereas, CompassPoint Mentorship believes that the Project meets the criteria for the Authority's Urban Grant Program; and

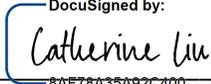
Whereas, the total project cost for the implementation of the Project is \$145,960; and

Whereas, CompassPoint Mentorship will be responsible for operation and maintenance of the Project; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that this Board of Directors of CompassPoint Mentorship hereby finds, determines, declares, and orders as follows:

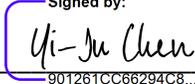
1. **Truth of Recitals.** That the foregoing recitations are true and correct.
2. **Measure T Consistency.** That the Project is consistent with the Measure T Expenditure Plan.
3. **Authorization.** The Executive Director of CompassPoint Mentorship is hereby authorized to conduct all negotiations and submit and sign all documents, including but not limited to, grant agreement, conservation easement, amendments, reimbursement requests as may be necessary for completion of the project.
4. **Operation and Maintenance.** CompassPoint Mentorship has available and sufficient funds necessary to operate and maintain the project.
5. **Program Guidelines.** CompassPoint Mentorship has reviewed, understands, and agrees to abide by the provisions contained in the Authority's Program Guidelines.
6. **Legal Compliance.** CompassPoint Mentorship acknowledges that it will comply with all federal, state and local laws applicable to the Project.

Passed and adopted at a meeting of the Board of Directors of CompassPoint Mentorship on October 13, 2025.

Authorized Original Signature:  _____
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Printed Name: Catherine Liu

Title: Executive Director

Board Secretary:  _____
901261CC66294C8...

Print Name: Yiju Chen