

June 25, 2020



David W. Poeschel, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action Advisor,
Former SCVOSA Citizens' Advisory Committee Member

Hoi Y. Poon, Co-Founder, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action

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

Dear Grants Administrator Dreger, Citizens' Advisory Committee, and Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority,

We write to support Acterra's initiative You(th) Be the Change program for students. This project will innovate student learning about climate change and develop leadership opportunities for many students with the most need from marginalized communities. The program will further their personal interests, create awareness of potential careers in sustainability, and serve our larger community.

Acterra has a track record of great projects improving climate awareness and readiness. But more are needed. We must bolster the current insufficient climate education in our schools if we are to meet the challenges faced by future generations.

Through our work with the youth efforts of Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, we have seen how youth, provided with education and guidance, can change the world. Silicon Valley youth have already been instrumental in moving both the San Jose City Council and Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to declare a climate emergency and mandate all-electric building codes for new construction in San Jose and many local cities in order to avoid use of climate polluting natural gas and the leaky pipeline infrastructure it requires. Further efforts are ongoing to address the transportation sector where youth have already had an impact on moving toward "signal preemption" priority for transit and other initiatives to move transportation away from dependency on the automobile.

In addition to the obvious tangible results, youth are forever empowered when they experience firsthand the changes that they make.

Please further empower many more youth to address the climate challenges that they will face by supporting Acterra's You(th) Be the Change program for students.

Sincerely,

David W. Poeschel, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action Advisor,
Former SCVOSA Citizens' Advisory Committee Member

Hoi Y. Poon, Co-Founder, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action