

DAVE CORTESE

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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,

Our county, our country and our world are in the midst of an existential crisis.

The County Climate Coalition, a project spearheaded by my office in partnership with Al Gore's Climate Reality Project, affirmed the county's commitment to emission reductions deadlines and called on counties across the nation to achieve 100 percent renewable energy and commit to the goals set forth in the United Nations' Paris Climate Agreement — an agreement that our science-denying presidential administration withdrew from in 2017.

Santa Clara County has stayed on the forefront of the battle against climate change not only because we sit on the San Francisco Bay Area and have much to lose but also because we have the brightest minds in the world leveraging investment capital, research, incentives and regulatory powers. The ardent support and partnerships we have made with grassroots environmental activists have pushed us toward bold action and concrete climate solutions.

Youth have been front and center of this grassroots effort and will be most affected if we fail to act. With their help, the county has been able to pass aggressive sustainability policies and take bold action to quickly and safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere.

So I write in support Acterra's program **You(th) Be the Change**. Education is a critical starting point and we must act before it is too late.

Sincerely,

Dave Cortese
Santa Clara County Supervisor