



May 4, 2020

To Open Space Authority Citizen Advisory Committee

I have been directing programs and services for Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired for five years. We are a community-based organization that has been increasing the confidence, independence, and quality of life of the blind and visually impaired for more than 50 years. Our agency offers comprehensive training, social support and other services for blind people of all ages. Ensuring our older adults have access to safe, supportive and engaging physical, educational and social activity such as Bay Area Older Adults' (BAO) Healthy Hikes™ Program is critical for the health and well-being of our seniors.

In 2019, BAO successfully tailored educational walking programs to our visually impaired seniors, who do not typically have access to the parks in Santa Clara County. Our seniors learned about the wildlife in different parks and were able to hear, touch, smell and even taste plants, and hear and touch animals, reptiles and insects supported by our creeks and rivers that flow through the parks.

We are excited to support another year of Bay Area Older Adults' walking program by providing one staff who will attend all of the proposed walks. We will also be responsible for program promotion and registration.

The Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired appreciates the benefits that the BAO partnership brings to our community. We expect BAO will continue to encourage long term engagement of our clients with our county parks.

Respectfully

Valerie Campos

Valerie Campos
Director of Adult Services
Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired
101 N Bascom Ave, S.J. CA 95128
408-295-4016 X 217