

June 15, 2020

To whom it may concern,

Valley Water plays a part in managing the urban forest of Santa Clara County. We conduct vegetation management on hundreds of miles of creeks, canals, pipelines, shorelines, and water utility facilities. Maintenance of these areas includes controlling invasive tree species, promoting native species, and caring for our remnant, ancient trees that have survived urban development. Mitigating hazards between the public and trees located on our facilities is also an important task we face as land managers. As a certified arborist and qualified tree risk assessor, I manage the county-wide Hazard Tree Program for Valley Water.

Valley Water supports the stated purpose and function of the Santa Clara Valley Urban Forestry Alliance. Valley Water intends to participate in the Alliance with outreach and believes that there is significant value in organizing stakeholders to maximize resources and increasing public awareness regarding trees.

Valley Water supports the County of Santa Clara's grant request, as this funding would provide the opportunity to create an organization that could have permanent positive impacts on urban forestry in Santa Clara Valley and increase public support for urban forestry.

Sincerely,



John Chapman

Vegetation Program Specialist II

Certified Arborist #WE-7227A

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