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June 29, 2020

Open Space Authority
Santa Clara Valley

Dear Board of Directors and Citizen Advisory Committee,

The Campbell Union Elementary School District (CUSD) wholeheartedly supports the Living Classroom proposal to the Open Space Authority Santa Clara Valley (OSA) for a 3-year grant for Program Support in 2021-24.

The proposed funding from the OSA is for Living Classroom to continue to provide Next Generation Science Standard aligned lessons to CUSD students at six schools. Living Classroom has provided nearly 700 lessons since 2018 in grades Kindergarten through 3rd grade. Funds from this grant will provide the opportunity to add Special Day students and Transitional Kindergarten students in Year 1 (2021-22), and then to expand this exciting outdoor learning program to 4th and 5th grades at the same six sites in Years 2 and 3 (2022 - 24).

Living Classroom's garden-based lessons provide an important element to our larger health programs - connecting students with the sources of their food through involving them in growing food on their own school campus, understanding why these foods are so important to their health, and linking these classroom experiences to academic standards in science, social studies and math.

If this grant proposal is funded, it will enable Living Classroom to build upon and expand the current Program at six CUSD elementary schools, ensuring that all students moving on to CUSD middle schools have the same core understanding of earth and life sciences, health and nutrition, social studies and math - a sound foundation for future academic success.

Thank you for your consideration of Living Classroom's proposal for the Campbell Union School District.

Sincerely,

Edna Laskin
Director, Instructional Services