SAN JOSE CONSERVATION CORPS +CHARTER SCHOOL

Board Officers

President
Sandra Murillo
Retired - COO
Housing Trust Silicon Valley

Vice President
Liz Hunt
Asian Americans for Community Involvement

Treasurer
Leslie Brown
Manager Customer Care
Peninsula Clean Energy

Past President
Hamid Saadat
Founder & Chairman
CSIX Connect

Board Members

Mahmood A. Khan
President - G-ESI

Steve Lopes
President
Western States Oil Company

John Medina
Project Superintendent
Devcon Construction

Jim Stoch
Independent Consultant

Ramon Zaragoza
Sr. Mechanical Engineer
Applied Materials

Chris Cruz
Park Management Program Director
West Valley College

Brenda Burks-Herrmann
Retired – District Director
California Conservation Corps

Bedriye Usta
Director, PWC

Dorsey Moore
Executive Director/CEO

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Lucy Diekmann, Ph.D.
Urban Agriculture/ Food Systems Advisor
UCCE Santa Clara County
1553 Berger Drive, Bldg. 1
San Jose, CA 95112

RE: Letter of Support for Closing the Climate Loop: Building Climate Resilience through Community Composting

Dear Dr. Diekmann,

As the Deputy Director of Operations for the San Jose Conservation Corps, I am pleased to confirm my enthusiastic support for the proposal, "Closing the Climate Loop: Building Climate Resilience through Community Composting," led by the University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, and in conjunction with San Jose Conservation Corps, Valley Verde, and Veggielution, to the Open Space Authority Urban Grant Program. In my capacity as Deputy Director of Operations, I am responsible for our job training program, which aims to provide opportunity for Santa Clara County's disadvantaged young adults and to train the next generation of environmental leaders on climate change and natural resources management.

I understand that the overarching goal of the project is to implement a network of community compost hubs in San Jose, evaluate the impact of compost creation and use on carbon storage, and educate community members on composting and climate-smart practices in urban agriculture.

The San Jose Conservation Corps (SJCC) is enthusiastic about the prospect of developing a community composting hub at its Berger Drive campus that will serve as a space for environmental education and youth engagement. Additionally, SJCC will recruit, train, and coordinate a crew of corpsmembers who will maintain operations at all four composting hubs on a weekly basis, ensuring the production of high-quality compost to support our local agriculture. SJCC is also pleased to match this grant request with funding in the amount of $157,104 secured for community composting at our campus through Proposition 68, the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018.

SJCC is confident that this project will advance the Open Space Authority of Santa Clara County's goal of connecting people to nature in their neighborhoods by engaging neighborhood residents in the process of transforming a liability – trash -- into compost, an invaluable resource for regenerative agriculture and green infrastructure. We are

SAN JOSE CONSERVATION CORPS
+CHARTER SCHOOL

Board Officers

President
Sandra Murillo
Retired - COO
Housing Trust Silicon Valley

Vice President
Liz Hunt
Asian Americans for Community Involvement

Treasurer
Leslie Brown
Manager Customer Care
Peninsula Clean Energy

Past President
Hamid Saadat
Founder & Chairman
CSIX Connect

Board Members

Mahmood A. Khan
President - G-ESI

Steve Lopes
President
Western States Oil Company

John Medina
Project Superintendent
Devcon Construction

Jim Stoch
Independent Consultant

Ramon Zaragoza
Sr. Mechanical Engineer
Applied Materials

Chris Cruz
Park Management Program Director
West Valley College

Brenda Burks-Herrmann
Retired – District Director
California Conservation Corps

Bedriye Usta
Director, PWC

Dorsey Moore
Executive Director/CEO

enthusiastic about the potential of forging new partnerships with the University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Veggielution, and Valley Verde.

Thank you for leading this important county effort. I am confident that this project will have a significant impact on the region's climate change goals, while promoting access to resources for low-income communities within the county.

Sincerely,

Sal Munoz
Deputy Director
San Jose Conservation Corps + Charter School
smunoz@sjcccs.org | (408) 829-3432