

June 19, 2020

Megan Dreger, Grants Administrator
The Open Space Authority of Santa Clara Valley
33 Las Colinas Lane
San Jose, CA 95119

Dear Open Space Authority Citizen Advisory Committee:

Our CalFresh Healthy Living Program is pleased to support the proposed program to promote park utilization and environmental stewardship that is part of the Santa Clara County Public Health Department Measure Q Urban Open Space grant application. CalFresh Healthy Living is a separate program within Public Health that is grant funded by the USDA to reduce sedentary behavior, increase knowledge and consumption of healthy food, and reduce food insecurity. The “*JUNTOS Initiative*” being proposed aligns with the goals of our program which include increasing appreciation and utilization of parks and open spaces, as well as promoting agriculture through nutrition and garden education.

We have previously partnered on park utilization for under-resourced families and look forward to expanding our work with the Santa Clara County Public Health Department’s JUNTOS initiative and with the Valley Medical Center Pediatric Healthy Lifestyle Center. We look forward to collaborating with other partners like the City of San Jose and Veggielution and we are able to support all three proposed strategies including providing quarterly park activity options for families; implementing a Junior Ranger type program for youth and offering opportunities for parents to be park leaders.

Our CalFresh Healthy Living program specifically serves families who live in low-income neighborhoods, thus we have the knowledge and expertise to contribute meaningfully to this collaboration. Our staff speak Spanish and deliver programming and curriculum in a culturally competent way to community members. Within the JUNTOS initiative, we look forward to implementing gardening curriculum to support agricultural knowledge among families and training youth and parents on how to implement physical activity lessons that can be experienced in the parks.

We urge you to support the *JUNTOS Initiative* as we are very much looking forward to being part of this partnership.

Sincerely,


Jo Seavey-Hultquist (Jun 19, 2020 08:26 PDT)

Jo Seavey-Hultquist
CalFresh Healthy Living Program Manager