

Susan Hinchey
Independence High School

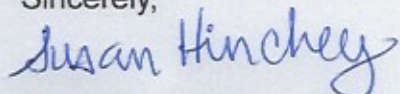
June 19, 2020

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
33 Las Colinas Ln
San Jose, CA 95119

Dear Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority,
I am a Chemistry and Advanced Placement Environmental Education teacher at Independence High School in San Jose. We enthusiastically support the Santa Clara Valley Audubon's Society's (SCVAS) plans to create a new Environmental Education Program at Laguna Seca in Coyote Valley. We understand that for the past thirty years, SCVAS's has run a successful Wetlands Discovery Program that has helped thousands of grade-school children learn about salt marsh ecology at San Francisco Bay. We would love to see a similar program that could address the needs of high school Biology and Environmental Science students. Holding that program in the North Coyote Valley would be great for its proximity to our school.

AP Environmental Science requires students to learn how to recognize problems in the environment and come up with solutions. APES students need experience collecting and interpreting data from field studies. Citizen Science can help them accomplish this task. Students must also understand relationships within ecosystems and how humans impact the environment. Exploring ecosystems in North Coyote Valley will help students understand environmental issues in our area and apply this knowledge to global issues.

Sincerely,



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