



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

6/19/2020

Dear Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority,

I am pleased to partner with the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society on its proposed Oak Savanna Citizen Science Project, which will conduct bird surveys, BioBlitzes, and a high school environmental education program at Laguna Seca.

As an entomologist consultant to the project, I will contribute my knowledge of insects and local ecology to the BioBlitzes that SCVAS will organize at Laguna Seca. I have an extensive background in citizen science. During the BioBlitzes, I will lead groups of participants to discover and gather information on insects, teaching them about insects and their importance in our environment. Afterwards, I will help SCVAS review and analyze the data that we collect.

I have helped non-profits organize about 40 BioBlitz events for the public throughout Santa Clara County and look forward to working with SCVAS to make the Laguna Seca BioBlitzes engaging events for our community. Collaborating with partners who have different sets of expertise enriches the events for participants and allows for the collection of more valuable information about the biodiversity of a place.

I've volunteered for SCVAS over the past 5 years and know it to be an environmental organization that is committed to educating our local community about the natural world and the benefits of conservation. I think BioBlitzes are a wonderful way to teach and share the love of science with many people and am glad to partner with SCVAS on this project.

Sincerely,

Merav Vonshak

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Merav Vonshak".