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Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

2020 Urban Grant Program

Deadline: 7/1/2020

San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory **Community-informed Facility Upgrade Planning to Expand** **Outdoor Education Experiences**

Jump to: [Project Description](#) [Documents Upload](#)

\$ 75,131.00 Requested

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EIN [94-2788588](tel:94-2788588)

Project Description [top](#)

Applicant Type

1. What type of organization is this?

- Public Agency
- School or School District
- 501(c)3 Nonprofit
- Eligible organization acting as Fiscal Sponsor for another organization

2. Does the application include a fiscal sponsor?

If the project includes a fiscal sponsor, the fiscal sponsor must be the applicant.

- YES
- NO

Overview

3. Which type of grant are you requesting?

- Small (\$10,000 - \$39,999)
- Large (\$40,000 - \$250,000)

4. Grant category (check all that apply)

- Environmental Stewardship and Restoration
- Parks, Trails, and Public Access
- Environmental Education
- Urban Agriculture / Food Systems

5. Type of project (check all that apply)

- Capital improvement (Large projects only)
- Planning
- Program

6. Project Location: Address / Neighborhood

What is the physical location of the project? If there is no physical location, please enter "N/A." If the project will be in multiple locations, please list all. Note: project location(s) must be within the Authority's jurisdiction.

Our staff are based at the Sobrato Nonprofit Center at 524 Valley Way, Milpitas, CA 95035. Our banding station is located on the western side of Coyote Creek, at the boundary of Milpitas and San Jose, but there is no physical address. The banding station is located along a graveled levee road about a mile north of Hwy 237 and quarter-mile west of North McCarthy Boulevard.

7. Project Location: Open Space Authority District (check all that apply)

A detailed map of the Authority Districts can be found under the Library tab, or online at <https://www.openspaceauthority.org/public-information/board-of-directors.html>.

- Authority District 1
- Authority District 2
- Authority District 3
- Authority District 4
- Authority District 5
- Authority District 6
- Authority District 7

8. Who does the project serve? Please indicate which Open Space Authority Districts are served (check all that apply)

A detailed map of the Authority Districts can be found under the Library tab, or online at <https://www.openspaceauthority.org/public-information/board-of-directors.html>.

- Authority District 1
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- Authority District 3
- Authority District 4
- Authority District 5
- Authority District 6
- Authority District 7

9. Project Abstract

(Brief, 3-4 sentences)

The urban bird banding station Coyote Creek Field Station performs research, skills training, and innovative science-focused educational outreach. We request funding to plan field station improvements to accommodate the expansion of education and community outreach activities. Facility improvement planning will be extensively informed by consultation with educators, with a priority focus on engaging with underserved communities, to ensure that the expansion serves local needs.

Project Planning (20 points)

10. Describe the proposed project.

Coyote Creek Field Station (CCFS), managed by the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (SFBBO), is the longest running urban bird banding station in the western US, and protects wild bird populations through research, outreach, and education. CCFS is a unique greenspace that encompasses two habitat restoration sites located within 30 minutes of millions of Bay Area residents, and provides community members with unforgettable nature experiences that touch upon wildlife, habitat, climate change, and scientific research.

CCFS has a strong history of serving the community through outreach and education. Our dedicated banding station volunteers receive professional-level training and participate in intensive, hands-on bird research. Our Measure Q-funded Education Module, "Bird Populations and Migration," brings middle school students from local underserved schools and youth-serving organizations to participate in our inquiry-based program. Undergraduate and graduate students receive skills training and conduct research. In 2019, we served over 250 participants in our outreach and education programs. However, CCFS currently operates in a 10' x 45' trailer that is over 30 years old, which is no longer suitable for our current needs and limits our ability to serve the community through these programs.

We propose a comprehensive planning project that will significantly expand our ability to serve the needs of the community, including exploring opportunities to expand our hosted educational activities from one weekday to multiple weekdays per week, and planning facility improvements including a larger trailer and enhancements to the surrounding area to increase sustainability, enhance our nature-based learning and hands-on experiences, and increase our capacity to host large groups. This project will be extensively informed by feedback from community stakeholders: we will form two Working Groups (K-12 and college-age groups) to advise on how the station improvements can be structured to maximize educational benefits to the community. These Working Groups will focus on promoting diversity in outdoor education by prioritizing students in underserved areas and students who currently have little access to nature, and exploring ways to increase engagement with and volunteer participation from these communities.

Project benefits encompass several Measure Q Expenditure Plan and Santa Clara Valley Greenprint target areas. Local wildlife will benefit from greater appreciation of and knowledge of those wildlife and their habitats due to new and better outreach programs and greater capacity to host researchers. We will consult with stakeholders to maximize educational opportunities and to ensure that those benefits reach deep engagement communities. Our project contributes to social justice by specifically researching how to best meet the needs of local underserved communities to help address racial and economic disparities in access to nature education.

11. Describe key project deliverables and estimated completion dates.

By July 2021: acquire 10 benches, 5 shade structures, and 4G/LTE cellular wi-fi connectivity for the existing facility. These structures are easy to acquire and will make immediate improvements to the CCFS area which will benefit existing outreach programs, the planned working groups, and future outreach opportunities that arise from the working groups. These structures will also be incorporated into the facility improvement plans.

By November 2021: host two working groups over the summer and summarize results. These working groups will identify facility improvements, ways to take advantage of identified facility improvements for future outreach events, opportunities for new collaborations, and ways to increase involvement and participation in outreach and volunteer activities for underserved communities. Comments, feedback, and other results from these working groups will be summarized into a requirements document to help inform architectural drafts for the planned station improvements and trailer replacement.

By April 2022: draft architectural plans. SFBBO intends to expand the footprint of the existing trailer and make improvements to the surrounding area, and therefore needs to acquire architectural drafts of the proposed changes to the site in order to conduct a CEQA assessment and secure authorization from the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) to conduct the improvements. These drafts will be informed by the results of the above working groups.

By October 2022: secure CEQA documentation. Replacing the trailer and making site improvements requires a CEQA assessment to determine potential impacts to the environment. We expect to qualify for a categorical exemption, as the new facility and improvements will be located in the same developed area as the existing facility.

By May 2023: receive a permit to carry out the trailer replacement and site improvement plans from SCVWD's Community Projects Review Unit (CPRU). Once we have secured the architectural drafts and CEQA assessment, required for CPRU approval, we will apply for a permit to carry out our planned improvements. We expect CPRU to take approximately 6 months to review and approve our documentation.

By February 2024: secure building permits from the City of San Jose. Once we have received approval from CPRU to proceed with site improvements and replacing the trailer, we will secure a building permit from the City of San Jose. We expect the City of San Jose to take more than 6 months to review and approve our documentation.

By March 2024: collect all of the above documentation (working group documentation, architectural plans, CEQA assessment, CPRU permit, and building permits) into a ready-to-go package for future grant proposals to secure funding to carry out site improvements and purchase a new trailer.

12. Does this project require permission, permits, or other approvals? If so, please describe the status of these.

This project does require permits and other approval to be successful: the acquisition of these permits and approvals will be funded by this grant request. As part of this grant, SFBBO expects to secure: a CEQA categorical exemption / negative declaration for our plans to replace our current trailer and perform site improvements; authorization from the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) Community Projects Review Unit (CPRU) to proceed with the project; and a building permit from the City of San Jose to authorize the project.

We have not initiated work on securing these permits and approvals due to the cost of hiring third-party consultants to assist with the complex permitting process, and due to the cost of the fees associated with each step. The funding from this planning grant will cover these costs (see detailed breakdown in question 17).

In addition to the above approvals, SFBBO maintains an Easement Permit (05446, file no. 19010) from SCVWD to operate on the property where CCFS is located. This permit was originally issued in the early 1980s (superseded in 2005), and does not have an expiration date. The Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) is aware of our intentions to make improvements to the CCFS area, and they have provided informal encouragement and support for our activities at CCFS.

13. What is the lifetime of this project? If applicable, describe plans for operating and maintaining the project in the future.

The research and planning proposed here would make possible facility upgrades and program expansions that should impact SFBBO's outreach effort for decades. The planning for the new trailer will pave the way for a facility that is expected to last 30 years. The site improvements that will be planned are expected to last at least 10 years. Ongoing maintenance of the planned-for improvements will extend these lifespans: SFBBO has cultivated a dedicated crew of skilled volunteers who conduct activities at CCFS, including trailer and area maintenance. Some of these volunteers have been involved with CCFS for over 25 years. We will continue to rely on their expertise to help SFBBO maintain the site for the coming decades. Program improvements and new collaborations will impact SFBBO's offerings to the community for the long term. In recent years, we have formed partnerships with other groups (see selection of letters of support) who are dedicated to work with us for the next several years on educational opportunities for their community members and students.

14. Describe the project's readiness for implementation.

SFBBO has sufficient personnel to begin implementing a few different aspects of this project immediately. Purchasing wireless internet, movable shade structures, and benches for immediate site improvement does not require pre-approval from SCVWD, and we can make those acquisitions as soon as the grant agreement is finalized. Additionally, our pre-existing relationships with local educators and youth group leaders (Boys & Girls Clubs, Windmill Springs Elementary, Marshmallow Minds, San Jose State University, Santa Clara University, and West Valley College) will allow us to start planning for and scheduling the advisory Working Groups immediately. We will also be able to start recruiting interns from UC Santa Cruz's Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program, research and locate an architectural firm for drafting site plans, and research CEQA processes, CPRU requirements, and building permit requirements as soon as the grant agreement is finalized.

The Doris Duke interns will arrive in June 2021 to plan and run the working groups and consolidate feedback. Drafting architectural plans, CEQA analysis, CPRU approval, and building permit acquisition are each dependent on previous steps in this process, and will occur in relative order as we progress through the project timeline. We expect that our long-standing working relationship with the Santa Clara Valley Water District will facilitate the CEQA and CPRU steps.

Project Budget (15 points)

15. Budget Summary - Grant Request

This is a budget summary only; a detailed Project Budget must be submitted using the Documents Upload tab. Please enter dollar amount. Note: after the application is submitted, the software will automatically add a TOTAL.

35520	Grant request: Personnel
20900	Grant request: Contracted Services
3250	Grant request: Supplies / Materials
11667.75	Grant request: Other Direct Costs
3793.25	Grant request: Indirect Costs
75,131.00	TOTAL

16. Budget Summary - Matching Funds

This is a budget summary only; a detailed Project Budget must be submitted using the Documents Upload tab. Please enter dollar amount. Note: after the application is submitted, the software will automatically add a TOTAL.

21056	Total Matching Funds
21,056.00	TOTAL

17. Budget Narrative

Provide a brief budget narrative to explain the expenses listed in each of the budget categories (e.g. Personnel).

The money from this grant request will be spent in three main areas: approximately 28% to contracted services (consultants and workshop participants), 47% to personnel (SFBBO staff and interns), 20% to supplies, materials, and other direct costs (application fees and equipment), and 5% to indirect costs. The following budget narrative explains how the expense categories contribute to each major goal of this project.

SFBBO staff and interns will host working groups with local partners to identify site improvements, ways to take advantage of these improvements for future outreach events, opportunities for new collaborations, and ways to increase involvement and participation for underserved communities. We have budgeted staff time and plan matching funds to support two interns for planning, hosting, evaluating feedback from these events, and for equipment purchases (wifi, benches, and shade structures) that will make immediate improvements to hosting groups at CCFs.

Replacing the trailer out of which we have been operating for over 30 years is not a straightforward undertaking, and is outside the area of expertise of SFBBO staff. There are several areas in which SFBBO needs to hire third-party consultants. These activities will be initiated concurrently with hosting the working groups, but are expected to be dependent on the results from the working group.

SFBBO intends to expand the footprint of the existing trailer and make improvements to the environmental footprint of the facility (such as adding solar panels), and therefore needs architectural drafts of the proposed changes to the site in order to secure authorization from the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD). We plan to hire a third-party draftsman to create the drafts, and have budgeted staff time for researching these improvements and coordinating with SCVWD to ensure our plans are congruent with their permitting needs.

Replacing the trailer requires a CEQA assessment to determine potential impacts to the environment. We expect to qualify for a categorical exemption, as the new facility will be located in the same area as the existing facility, which is already developed. Consultant hours, staff hours, and permit fees for a categorical exemption or negative declaration are in our budget.

Once we have secured the architectural drafts, CEQA assessment, and have an understanding of planned green improvements to the trailer, we will apply for approval from SCVWD. Our budget includes staff time to prepare application materials for the Community Public Review Unit (CPRU) to receive approval for our plans.

Once we have received approval to proceed with replacing the trailer, we will secure a building permit from the City of San Jose. This activity is also outside the area of expertise of SFBBO staff, and we plan to hire third-party consultants to assist SFBBO staff with this process. Approximately 40% of our budgeted fees will be assigned to this permit.

Project Goals (15 points)

18. Describe the specific problems, issues, or unserved needs the project will address.

Access to nature improves cognitive abilities and mental health, however many students have few opportunities to learn in green spaces. Similarly, they may have little knowledge of or contact with wildlife, an important component of environmental education, as well as a prerequisite for pursuing careers in the natural sciences, in which minority students are underrepresented. These issues especially impact minority and disadvantaged students, who may live in park-poor neighborhoods, lack transportation, and even feel unsafe in natural spaces. This project will address this through facilitating safe, enjoyable outdoor experiences with hands-on components that encourage students to take ownership of the space and

directly engage with nature; for example, allowing students to hear a wild bird's fast-beating heart and have the experience of releasing a bird back into the wild.

SFBBO has a strong track record of engaging the community through volunteer involvement, outreach, and education at CCFS. However, these activities are limited by the low physical capacity for hosting groups at the current facility, which is over 30 years old and too small to support large groups. The area surrounding CCFS has extraordinary potential as an outdoor classroom, but currently this is limited by lack of shade and seating in demonstration areas. This project will remove these limitations and create new opportunities to engage with nature, science, and wildlife at CCFS.

One challenge in serving the community through nature education at CCFS is that SFBBO staff lack the knowledge of local education needs that is possessed by local teachers and youth organizations. We therefore run the risk of targeting our efforts inefficiently. Additionally, it can be difficult to reach schools and youth groups in underserved areas; while we have been successful doing so in past projects, we can always do more to improve our engagement. This project will allow us to tap into the knowledge of local needs and develop new connections to organizations in underserved areas through our advisory Working Groups.

This project addresses two major goals of the Santa Clara Valley Greenprint: it helps connect people to nature through outreach, education, and research, and work toward conserving the natural environment by planning a sustainable facility, providing hands-on nature-based activities, and educating on the effects of climate change on the natural world. We will target schools in San Jose and Milpitas so that the students can get to know a nearby natural landmark, Coyote Creek. By making teachers and students more aware of Coyote Creek and its role in providing habitat and movement corridors for wildlife, these residents will be more likely to appreciate and support conservation of that habitat (a Measure Q Expenditure Plan goal) and environmental efforts in the future.

19. How does this project serve the community?

These metrics are required for all projects. Project-specific metrics can be added under Question 20 below. Note: after the application is submitted, the software will automatically add a TOTAL that will not be used.

500	Number of people served
600	Number of youth served (under 18 years)
40	Number of programs provided
1,140.00	TOTAL

20. In what other ways does the project serve the community? Please list the project-specific goals (both social and environmental).

Please list any additional goals and how they will be measured (e.g. surveys, field measurements, attendance sheets, etc.).

SFBBO has a history of serving the community through outreach and education. Our programs, such as the Measure Q-funded education module "Bird Populations and Migration," have successfully reached youth in underserved communities, providing access to the outdoors and inspiring curiosity about the natural world. We are in a unique position to improve our facilities and collaborations to meet the needs of our local community. Through this project, we will:

1. Improve our ability to host large community and school groups (up to 50 participants), measured by tracking attendance at each event and feedback through post-event surveys
2. Improve accessibility of our facility by acquiring 5 shade structures and 10 benches to accommodate those with limited ability to stand or deal with heat, measured by participant feedback
3. Improve coordination and collaboration between existing non-profits serving the same audiences, measured by the number of participants attending our working groups
4. Increase access to nature and scientific research for underserved communities, measured by the number of new collaborative events we are able to host with partner organizations
5. Improve the experience for community members who volunteer at CCFS, measured by collecting

feedback from volunteers

6. Improve the experience for visiting researchers, benefiting graduate education and expanding our knowledge of local resources, measured by the number of visiting researchers and their feedback

Impact (15 points)

21. Describe the lasting impact of the project.

SFBBO has successfully run our Measure Q-funded education module "Bird Populations and Migration" each year since we initiated the program in 2017. We have taught over 700 6th and 7th grade students from underserved communities to think like a scientist and to explore the natural world. In our grant application in 2016, we anticipated needing to make infrastructure improvements to our facilities and expand our capacity to host large groups, and we have reached that point. Students who have visited CCFS through this education module have received a unique experience that will stay with them for years to come, as expressed by two 6th-grade students from Windmill Springs Elementary:

"Thank you for everything, this field trip was one of the best this year. I would love to come again, or even volunteer someday. I learned a lot, for instance I learned that there are so many species of bird. I loved this field trip so, so, so, so, so, so, much. I would repeat the day and do it again if I could. My favorite part was when we got to examine the birds up close. Every bird I saw was so beautiful, and extraordinary. The most amazing bird I saw was the Song Sparrow, its call was very melodic."

"I am very thankful that you chose our school for this field trip. I have found a new love for birding and even visualize it as a possible future career. Thank you for letting us make bands. I love mine! I also thank Josh for teaching about different Oriole birds. I really hope I can visit again."

The improvements we are planning for CCFS will greatly benefit our ability to host groups, and will make field trips to the station more accommodating. The Working Groups will identify new partnerships and opportunities to bring more groups to CCFS to explore nature, not only limited to bird research but also to explore other wildlife and habitat types. Targeting underserved communities will provide students who have little access to nature with an immersive, hands-on experience, consistent with the Santa Clara Valley Greenprint goal of connecting people to nature. These opportunities are unique, as CCFS is located on private property not normally accessible to the public, and SFBBO's encroachment permit with the Santa Clara Valley Water District allows us to host public tours of the station. We have found that kids--and adults!--find bird banding a particularly intriguing and impactful activity, as it allows participants to see these usually-elusive animals up close and then watch them fly free, making it an excellent entrance point for broader scientific topics. Such experiences have lasting impacts on participants' appreciation of nature, promoting support for conservation initiatives, a goal of the Measure Q Expenditure Plan. CCFS is the only opportunity in the area to observe this technique, and the station's combination of bird research and access to restricted land with a variety of natural resources creates the chance to provide truly special educational experience.

Community Engagement / Stakeholder Support (10 points)

22. Describe the community support and/or community engagement process.

Please submit letters using the Documents Upload tab.

CCFS consistently engaged students and residents in the community through banding demonstrations held onsite. We work with K-12 schools (e.g. Windmill Springs), youth organizations (e.g. the Boys & Girls Club), community colleges (e.g. West Valley Community College), universities (e.g. San Jose State University), and local Audubon societies to provide opportunities to learn about scientific research and engage in inquiry--based learning in a stimulating natural setting.

This project will strengthen community engagement by convening Working Groups of community members to advise on our site improvement planning and to create opportunities for new outreach collaborations.

SFBBO has demonstrated our commitment to seeking feedback and collaboration, most recently through a collaboration with Marshmallow Minds to develop a scientific education module and through our NSF-funded project to develop a coordination network with four higher education institutions to improve student research and learning.

Many of the above organizations support enhancement of the field station to expand outreach capacity, as evidenced by letters of support they have provided for this application. The Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) is aware of our intentions to make improvements to the CCFS area, and while they were not able to provide a letter of support for our proposal, they have provided informal encouragement and support for our activities at CCFS.

Leadership & Innovation (10 points)

23. Describe how this project employs innovative approaches or encourages collaboration and partnerships.

If there are project partners, please upload partner letters on the Documents Upload tab.

This project will benefit from the strengths of several collaborative partners, allowing each to bring their best to the table and together to produce considerable value for the community. Through collaboration with UC Santa Cruz's Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program, we will involve two interns in the project. Through the Working Groups, we will bring together two diverse groups of educators and experts (e.g. teachers from Windmill Springs, curriculum developers from Marshmallow Minds, leaders from Boys & Girls Clubs, and instructors from West Valley Community College) to consult on the design of the improved field station, suggest demonstrations and field activities that would complement their teaching plans, identify strategies to ensure our programs reach underserved populations, and discover opportunities for further collaboration. Our volunteers, community members themselves, will provide suggestions and feedback for the station improvements.

We believe that incorporating educator feedback this early in the planning process is an innovative approach that will amplify the benefits of the improvements and encourage long-term utilization of the new station. We expect that bringing our group members together and providing space for creativity will foster innovative ideas as well. Finally, we expect that the cohabitation of scientific research and educational outreach together in one space will yield a unique experience for students.

Organizational Capacity (15 points)

24. Briefly describe the organization and its ability to successfully implement this project. This might include successful past projects, key staff qualifications, financial resources, etc.

If the applicant is a Fiscal Sponsor, please describe both the Fiscal Sponsor and the sponsored organization.

Founded in 1981, San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory is dedicated to the conservation of birds and their habitats through science and educational outreach. We are based in Milpitas, CA and have nearly 40 years of experience conducting scientific research to better understand changes in bird communities in the Bay Area. SFBBO programs are funded by research grants, foundation support, partnerships, contracts and donors. The research and outreach programs produce dozens of technical reports annually from the bird surveys and other field work; sponsor 45 outreach programs per month; and engage hundreds of volunteers each year (over 10,000 volunteer hours in 2019). Despite a limited outreach budget, we have significantly expanded our outreach and education programs in recent years. We created an education module, "Bird Populations and Migration," from a Measure Q-funded grant and have engaged hundreds of youth from local underserved communities in Santa Clara County (see linked video: youtu.be/PPj5mhJRNLU).

We have great relationships with local schools, libraries, and youth-serving organizations (e.g. Boys & Girls Club) through our science education events, and are expanding our network of collaborators through a NSF-

funded grant to develop educational opportunities for undergraduate students. In 2019, we also received an outreach and education grant from Midpeninsula Regional Open Space Trust to develop and execute dozens of community education projects. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we pivoted from in person to online events, and have had hundreds of attendees at our virtual events during the last three months. Our success was recognized by Midpen, which plans to feature our work in their August newsletter.

Our staff are highly qualified and driven to meet the challenges of this project:

Executive Director Dr. Yiwei Wang has been leading SFBBO for five years. She has over 15 years of experience working in environmental education and building collaborative networks of researchers. Yiwei will have administrative oversight of the project and will participate in the Working Groups.

Senior biologist Dr. Katie LaBarbera is a researcher and bird bander, has mentored students in avian research skills, and has designed science curricula for ages from kindergarten through college. Katie will be involved in all aspects of the project.

Senior biologist Dr. Dan Wenny has been involved with banding station training and research for many years. He was central to the development of the Measure Q-funded education module and helped run the program for the past 3 years. Dan will be involved in all aspects of the project.

Environmental Education & Outreach Specialist Sirena Lao, MS, coordinates SFBBO's education and outreach events, working with volunteers, partner organizations, and libraries to reach children and adults with both in-person and virtual programs. Sirena will participate in the Working Groups.

BONUS POINTS: Underserved Communities (10 points)

25. Describe how the project addresses open space needs for sensitive populations such as residents of park-poor neighborhoods, underserved or disadvantaged communities, youth, seniors, persons with disabilities, or is located within a Deep Engagement Community (DEC).

This question is optional; please answer if applicable, otherwise enter "N/A." A map of the DECs can be found by clicking on "Apply" at <https://www.openspaceauthority.org/urban>.

Residents of park-poor neighborhoods and underserved communities often have limited access to nature and wildlife. The banding station's location in diverse San Jose, CA makes it well-suited to serving traditionally underserved communities. Because CCFS is one of very few banding stations located in an urban area, it represents a superb opportunity to give urban residents a unique nature experience without requiring them to travel far. For past programs we have brought children from Windmill Springs Elementary and the Boys & Girls Smythe Clubhouse, which are located in Deep Engagement Community 4, to CCFS to experience bird banding demonstrations. These demonstrations are unique, close-up experiences that immerse participants in nature, bring them close to wild birds, and engage them in scientific investigation. The area around the field station includes multiple habitat types, habitat restoration sites, and high levels of biodiversity, making it well suited to environmental education. By upgrading the facility to a larger space and making site improvements such as providing increased shade and seating areas, we can accommodate larger groups and provide a safer and more effective learning environment, while also making the facility more accommodating to visitors with limited ability to stand or tolerate sun. By soliciting feedback on how best to reach and benefit underserved communities, we will expand and improve our services to these populations.

BONUS POINTS: Community Building (10 points)

26. Describe how this project actively encourages community building by engaging or accommodating local residents in novel and creative ways.

This question is optional; please answer if applicable, otherwise enter "N/A."

CCFS is a unique resource in the South Bay. We provide a combination of outdoor enjoyment paired with scientific learning that cannot be found anywhere else. There is nowhere else local where kids can experience birds in the hand or see field ornithology in action, in a setting that is both natural and safe. There is nowhere else local where volunteers can receive the training and experience that is provided at the banding station; and it is a testament to the value and uniqueness of the banding station that some volunteers come from hours away, and that many volunteers stay on for decades.

Our project will expand our capacity for community building by planning a facility that can host more community members in a more comfortable and effective manner for our unique outreach and educational programs. Additionally, we will design the facility to increase its effectiveness as a research space, allowing us to host visiting researchers, and thereby providing our other visitors the opportunity to witness scientific research in action: an experience which, to our knowledge, is available only one other place in the region (the California Academy of Sciences; and the in-progress research exhibited there is lab, not field, research). Consultation with educators and outreach experts in our Working Groups during the proposed planning period will allow us to connect with educational programs that can capitalize on the banding station's unique strengths.

BONUS POINTS: Climate Resilience (5 points)

27. How does this project enhance and/or raise awareness about climate resilience?

This question is optional; please answer if applicable, otherwise enter "N/A."

Birds are intrinsically linked with climate change: their ranges shift as temperatures rise; their migrations become mis-timed due to unreliable environmental cues; they endure mass mortality events due to increasingly extreme weather, such as fires and hurricanes; their habitats are flooded by sea level rise. During our educational programs, we highlight various ways that a changing climate might impact bird populations, focusing not only on "the bad news" but also on how animals adapt to challenges and how human actions can moderate climate change impacts on wildlife. Discussing climate change and birds allows us to cover topics such as how scientists use data to detect long-term trends, the difference between weather and climate, predicting climate change impacts, and climate change mitigation. We believe that introducing these topics to youth has several benefits, both in teaching scientific thinking and in prompting students to consider how climate change might affect their future and how they might affect climate change.

Additionally, we will employ sustainable design principles wherever possible when planning the facility upgrade, for example by using environmentally-friendly materials for site improvements and by seeking to furnish the banding station's electricity needs through solar panels.

Documents Upload [top](#)

Documents Requested *

Financial Statement

Project Budget
[download template](#)

Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement
[download template](#)

Site Control Documentation
[download template](#)

Attached Documents *

✓ [2018 IRS form 990](#)
[2018 Audited Financial Statement](#)

✓ [San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory Project Budget](#)

[Site Control - SCVWD Encroachment Permit](#)
[Site Control - SCVWD Encroachment Amendment for Public Tours](#)

CEQA Compliance Certification Form[download template](#)

Letters of Support[Letter of support from Marshmallow Minds](#)[Letter of support from Boys & Girls Club](#)[Letter of support from UCSC Doris Duke](#)[Letter of support from SJSU](#)[Letter of support from Windmill Springs Elementary](#)[Letter of support from West Valley College](#)

Project Partner LettersMaps and Site PlansPhotographs[Photo from banding demo 1](#)[Photo from banding demo 2](#)

Other["Bird Populations & Migration" video \(for Q24\)](#)

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Application ID: 216174

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