

# GREAT FUTURES START **HERE.**



June 23, 2020

Open Space Authority Urban Grant Program

Re: Letter of support for San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory OSA Urban Grant Proposal

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory's (SFBBO's) proposal to plan a facility upgrade that will substantially increase its benefits to the community.

SFBBO's Coyote Creek Field Station represents a unique resource in the area. Public banding demonstrations and group visits allow community members, including children, to observe scientific work in action, and offer a rare opportunity to see wild birds in the hand. Volunteers at the station engage in up-close-and-personal encounters with the local ecology, receive specialized training in bird handling and scientific data collection, and contribute to the continuation of a decades-long avian monitoring program. College and graduate students from area institutions acquire crucial field skills and carry out scientific projects at the station.

Our members have benefitted significantly from this program, providing them with a unique outdoors educational experience that complements our own science enrichment curriculum. In particular, our members that attend our Smythe Clubhouse (which is located within OSA's Deep Engagement Community Area 4) have found the program relevant and important to both our animal biology and sustainability modules.

There is an urgency in this request... The existing trailer at Coyote Creek Field Station does not have enough space to fit a student group inside. With banding demonstrations taking place outdoors in the sun with very little shade or shelter, combined with limited seating for students, it necessitates upgrades to ensure a safe and comfortable learning environment for students.

From our understanding, the proposed planning will center on improvements to Coyote Creek Field Station to increase its capacity to provide these benefits to the community, and will empower SFBBO to center feedback from stakeholders in designing the facility and its future programs. Goals for the upgrades under consideration will include planning a larger, more functional, and more sustainable station building and designing a more accessible demonstration area to allow more outreach programs to take place. The banding station's location in diverse San Jose, CA makes it well-suited to serving traditionally underserved communities. Because Coyote Creek Field Station is one of very few banding stations located in an urban area, it represents a particular opportunity to expose young people to nature and science without requiring them to travel far. The planning proposed here, which will allow the facility improvements to be extensively informed by consultation with teachers and youth group leaders, will ensure that the upgraded banding station is tailored to programs that serve local needs.

**GREAT FUTURES START HERE.**



In closing, I hope you will consider supporting their incredible efforts and excellent services they provide to our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark P Washbush". To the right of the signature is a vertical line, likely a placeholder for a stamp or additional text.

Mark P Washbush  
Chief Operating Officer  
Boys & Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley