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To: Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority Urban Grant Program Reviewers

From: Lynne Trulio, Ph.D., Department Chair

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

With pleasure, I write this letter in support of the proposal by San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (SFBBO) to plan the upgrade of the SFBBO Coyote Creek Field Station, a much needed renovation that will substantially increase the Field Station's benefits to the students, educators and the community.

SFBBO's Coyote Creek Field Station represents a unique resource in the area. For decades, the bird banding program has invited community members of all ages to experience the beauty of birds by allowing people to participate in banding demonstrations and observe scientific work in action. Volunteers at the station can become expert bird banders, receiving training in bird handling and scientific data collection, and contributing to a decades-long avian monitoring program.

College students from area institutions have long participated in banding, acquiring crucial field skills and learning how to implement scientific projects at the station. From the perspective of the Department of Environmental Studies at San José State University (SJSU), I can say that the SFBBO Coyote Creek Field Station has been an invaluable resource for our faculty and students. Instructors regularly take classes to the Field Station to observe science in action and also to see the on-going habitat restoration along Coyote Creek. A number of graduate students have conducted their Master of Science research at the Field Station using current and past years' data to investigate important applied and theoretical questions. One of my graduate students, Emily Moffitt, who conducted her research at the Field Station and with long-term data was awarded SJSU's most outstanding thesis award in 2018.

I am excited that the proposed planning will center on improvements to Coyote Creek Field Station to increase its capacity to provide these benefits to the community. Executive Director Yiwei Wang tells me that the goals for the upgrades include planning a larger, more functional, and more sustainable station building and designing a more accessible demonstration area to facilitate data collection, class demonstrations, and outreach programs. I see the planning proposed here and the ultimate facility improvements to be a valuable and very effective investment in continuing to protect our delicate regional biodiversity--both by conducting unique scientific research and by educating the public to value and preserve our earth's species.

I know, from many years of working with SFBBO, that this organization uses its funds extremely wisely and frugally. Your organization could not find a more worthy recipient of Urban Grant Program funds and I strongly support this application from SFBBO. Feel free to contact me at lynne.trulio@sjsu.edu.