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June 25, 2020

Ms. Megan Dreger, Grants Administrator
Open Space Authority Santa Clara Valley
33 Las Colinas Lane
San Jose, CA 95119

RE: West Valley College Public Lands Institute Grant Application Letter of Support

Dear Friends,

The San Jose Conservation Corps and Charter School is excited to support West Valley College's grant application to create a **Public Lands Institute**, which thoughtfully creates curriculum, instruction and career pathways for post-secondary students preparing themselves to be the next generation of public lands stewards.

The proposed project includes training and stewardship activities that would assist all public land agencies and environmental organizations. West Valley College Park Management would provide both initial training and professional skills upgrade training. The target audience would include underserved populations to create greater access to this type of education and professional training. The program will include both hands on and on-line training and education.

Community colleges are the key rung on the socioeconomic ladder out of poverty for thousands of Californians. In Silicon Valley up to 60% of students in certain programs at West Valley, De Anza and Foothill colleges come from the eastside of San Jose.

The San Jose Conservation Corps and Charter School provides underserved young adults with an opportunity to gain work skills in the environmental field while achieving their high school diploma. We have been collaborating with the West Valley College Park Management Program for the past 15-years as a training platform to careers in land management agencies and to recruit their skilled program graduates as supervisors in our program.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of the West Valley College's proposal!

Please contact me if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Dorsey Moore
Executive Director/CEO, San Jose Conservation Corps + Charter School
408-439-6653; dmoore@sjcccs.org