Helen Chapman
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June 30, 2020

Mr. Alex Kennett
District 1 Chair, Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
6980 Santa Teresa Blvd, Suite 100
San Jose, CA 95119

SUBJECT: Support for Partnership with GRPC and PowWow San Jose for creation of public art corridor

Dear Chairman Kennett:

I want to share my enthusiastic support towards a Measure Q Urban Open Space Grant for the creation of a partnership with San Jose POW WOW (PWSJ) and the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy (GRPC) to develop a public art corridor along the Guadalupe River Trail. As part of my work I had the opportunity to work with PWSJ in District 2 on several mural projects in the community.

GRPC and PWSJ will collaborate to bring the experience of a public art movement into the Guadalupe River Park to bring art that fosters community resiliency, attract park users, and spark inspiration and social healing. The process will include working with students to conceptualize themes, curation, and outreach, while providing volunteer opportunities and lead to ownership of this section of the trail system.

This grant would fund awareness of their collaborative efforts, the engagement and stewardship of the creek and the environment, as well as bringing much needed public art to the Guadalupe River Trail.
We all are aware the significant role art plays in bringing people together and engaging users of all ages, social economic backgrounds, gender, and race. This grant would also seek to bring the numbers of trail users up by producing a public art corridor for people to get out and exercise while promoting social distancing as we adapt to the new normal where access to open space is critical for our health. Efforts would be made to reach out to the houseless population along the trail and work with teams to help organize clean ups and provide some basic resources to those in need.

Safe engaging trails are essential to increasing public access to open spaces and enhancing the multiple benefits to environmental protection and community health. I urge the Opens Space Authority to help fund this effort to invest in people, art and the environment; a win win for all.

Sincerely,

Helen Chapman

Helen Chapman
Former Park Commissioner, City of San Jose
President, Shasta Hanchett Park Neighborhood Association
Former Board member, GreenFoothills