

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

FOOD SYSTEM ALLIANCE

Community Stakeholder Members

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Fresh Approach

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Green Foothills

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UCCE SCC, Urban Agriculture Program

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UCCE SCC, Small Farm Program

Angela Xue

SCC Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency

June 17, 2020

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

RE: In Support of La Mesa Verde's Application for the Open Space Authority's Urban Grant

Dear Ms. Dreger:

The Santa Clara County Food System Alliance (Alliance) strongly supports Sacred Heart Community Service's proposal for the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority's Urban Grant. The grant would benefit Sacred Heart's La Mesa Verde program, which has helped many residents obtain access to fresh, organic produce in San Jose.

La Mesa Verde's (LMV) program model, based on the principles of agroecology, connects individuals with organic gardening education, promotes cultural diversity and values, and fosters active life in the community. Its model invites individuals to drive the program design and movement-building efforts. Through this novel approach, it has created a strong network of allies, volunteers, and community leaders who take action for greater social change.

LMV is a core member of the Alliance which is comprised of representatives from various organizations that care deeply about building a sustainable food system in the South Bay. The Alliance works to address issues across the county's food system. LMV brings a unique perspective to this space by closely examining how our food system impacts our community members and the crucial role they can play in implementing change. During the 2016-2017 Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone campaign, LMV members led and showed the power grassroots organizing in achieving change.

The Alliance encourages you to look favorably on Sacred Heart's proposal as we believe it will help the Open Space Authority achieve its goal of enhancing access to healthy food through urban farms and gardens, and connecting a diverse community to green space.

Sincerely



Julie Hutcheson, Administrative Committee Chair