

June 30, 2020

Board of Directors  
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority  
33 Las Colinas Lane  
San Jose, CA 95119



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RE: 2020 Urban Grant Program Application from Smart Yards Education

Dear Review Board,

La Mesa Verde at Sacred Heart Community Service is pleased to endorse the dual grant proposals from Smart Yards Education for both a “small” planning grant and a “large” implementation award from OSA’s 2020 Urban Grants Program.

Over the past two years we have partnered with Smart Yards Education (SYE) to put on an annual Earth Day celebration for the San Jose community, engaging many participants from our client base of primarily low-income, Latinx families. SYE has engaged our community members in learning about local ecology, including native plants, water conservation, the importance of beneficial insects, composting and other aspects of sustainable gardens. SYE has staff and volunteers who speak Spanish, and they understand the deep connection that many recent immigrants have to the natural world — and their eagerness to learn more about the native ecology here in Santa Clara Valley.

The proposed program, “Bringing Nature’s Wisdom to Urban Residents Through Permaculture Training,” will meet your program goals of Environmental Education, Job Training, Urban Food Gardens and Stormwater Management systems. And by training several classes of certified permaculture landscaping specialists, it will start to re-create the urban landscape of Santa Clara Valley to more closely match the natural systems found in OSA’s natural preserves.

In endorsing this program, Sacred Heart also plans to support outreach efforts to recruit participants for the proposed training program, and we will offer our classroom space as an in-kind donation for the indoor portions of the training throughout the duration of the grant program.

Thank you for offering this grant funding opportunity, and we look forward to working more with SYE upon their success in being funded.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacqueline Rivera".

**Jacqueline Rivera**  
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Sacred Heart Community Service  
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