



DIOCESE OF SAN JOSE

June 26, 2020

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

RE: 2020 Urban Grant Program Application from Smart Yards Education

Dear Friends,

The Office of the Life, Justice and Peace of the Diocese of San Jose through its Committee of Stewards of Our Common Home is pleased to endorse the dual grant proposals from Smart Yards Education (SYE) for both a "small" planning grant and a "large" implementation award from OSA's 2020 Urban Grants Program.

We endorse SYE's proposal to offer permaculture training courses to low-income residents of San Jose, connecting them to the natural open spaces of Santa Clara Valley and incorporating principles of ecology into their future work as skilled landscape professionals. We will support this program by helping to recruit participants for the training courses among our congregation. We will publicize the opportunity for our parishioners to serve as training sites where they can receive installations of native plants, water retention features, compost bins, gray water systems and other aspects of permaculture landscape design.

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

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Daniel Urcia".

Fr. Daniel Urcia

Director of Life, Justice and Peace
Chaplain Restorative Justice

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marita Grudzen".

Marita Grudzen
Chairperson, Stewards of Our Common Home