



Denelle Fedor  
*President*

John Hesler  
*Treasurer*

Trudi Konzem  
*Director*

Rick Mandel  
*Director*

Lynne Paulson  
*Recording Secretary*

Jon Reinke  
*Director*

Dave Van Etten  
*Director*

**RECEIVED**

*By Caroline Hernandez at 3:06 pm, Jul 02, 2020*

July 1, 2020

Mr. Alex Kennett, District 1 Chair  
Ms. Shay Franco-Clausen, District 5 Director  
Esteemed Board Members and Staff  
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority  
33 Las Colinas Lane  
San Jose, CA 95119

SUBJECT: Support for Bay Area Ridge Trail grant application for trail design for Class I trail on Bailey Avenue and Malech Road in North Coyote Valley

Dear OSA Board Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association (STFNA) to express our support for the Measure Q Urban Open Space Grant for the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council (Council) to create a Class I Trail Design that will close the gap in Ridge Trail and Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail along Bailey Road, an important regional trail and wildlife corridor connection between the Santa Cruz Mountains and Diablo Range through North Coyote Valley.

Since its inception, STFNA has advocated for protection of the Santa Teresa foothills, and completion of a trail connecting Santa Teresa County Park with Almaden Lake Park. Our membership area spans OSA Districts 1 and 5. We have partnered with the Open Space Authority, and strongly advocated with our members to support Measure Q to provide funding for these efforts. While this proposed project is not within our immediate membership area, it does represent an important step towards completion of the Bay Area Ridge Trail by filling the gap between Santa Teresa County Park and the Coyote Creek Trail.

STFNA believes completion of trails in and near our urban environments is necessary to permanently protect our urban hillsides from excessive development. Timely trail development will also help reduce the eventual overall cost of trail development. Long continuous trails, uninterrupted by dangerous street crossings, are essential to increasing public access to open spaces and enhancing the multiple benefits to environmental protection and community health.

The Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association urges the Opens Space Authority to help fulfill the ultimate vision of a continuous trail encircling the Bay by awarding a grant to help to close the critical gap in the trail as it crosses the Santa Clara Valley.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon D. Reinke".

Jon D. Reinke  
Director, Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association