
R-21-47
Meeting 21-10
May 27, 2021

CONSENT ITEM #C2

To: Board of Directors
Open Space Authority

From: Andrea Mackenzie
General Manager

SUBJECT

Authorization to Execute a Cooperation Agreement Between the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority and Terre et Cité

REVENUE/COST

There is no cost associated with execution of the Cooperation Agreement with Terre et Cité.

BACKGROUND

Terre et Cité is a non-profit organization based in Igny, France, just south of Paris, whose mission is to preserve the Plateau de Saclay, an agricultural region about 7,700 acres in size that is adjacent to an area known as the European Silicon Valley. Terre et Cité currently has 15 full time staff, and a 10-member Board of Directors.

On September 11, 2018, the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (Authority) and Terre et Cité partnered to lead a bus tour of Coyote Valley as part of the Global Climate Action Summit organized by then-Governor Jerry Brown. The tour highlighted the parallels between the Coyote Valley and the Plateau de Saclay - agricultural landscapes that support significant biodiversity situated at the edge of a growing urban region. The tour also featured some of the ideas for further collaboration between the Authority and Terre et Cité that had been discussed by its respective leaders.

One outcome of this bus tour was an invitation by a representative of the European Commission to continue the exchange between our two organizations that could at some future date include a tour of the Plateau de Saclay with selected elected officials from both sides of the Atlantic and which would be fully funded by the European Commission. The 2020 pandemic - and the resulting travel restrictions - delayed this tour, though Terre et Cité, the Authority, and other partners, have begun a series of international webinars focused on how natural and working lands at the urban edge can contribute to community sustainability and socioecological resilience, in order to maintain momentum and generate new ideas for mutual benefit of the organizations' respective conservation missions. The first such webinar took place on January 28, 2021, and was very well received with over 300 live participants, and over 1,600 views of the online video.

The Authority intends to continue supporting the development and execution of further international webinars, which will help us build relationships with our state agency partners, and can significantly strengthen the case for Coyote Valley to serve as a widely recognized model of climate-focused, multi-benefit land conservation that matches the intent for the State of California's goal of preserving 30% of its land and waters by 2030, also known as "30x30". The implementation of 30x30 at state - and at

federal – agencies, could lead to significant project funding opportunities for the Authority to implement its mission.

The Authority also intends to continue its support – through infrequent online conversations and sharing of existing data - of the doctoral dissertation of Marie Jussaume, currently under the employ of Terre et Cité, and who is also studying urban planning at Sorbonne University in Paris. Her work seeks to compare and contrast certain conservation goals and methods between the Plateau de Saclay and the Santa Clara Valley.

DISCUSSION

Terre et Cité and the Authority wish to enter into a “Cooperation Agreement” to formalize the commitment the two organizations have already made to each other for development and execution of the international webinars. An executed Cooperation Agreement would allow Terre et Cité to apply for grant funding in France to support the partnership.

The Cooperation Agreement, the term of which extends from June 1, 2021 to November 10, 2022, describes the obligations of the two partners, with Terre et Cité identified as the LEAD partner, and the Authority as the non-LEAD partner. The obligations identified in the Cooperation Agreement for the Authority are:

- *Perform the tasks assigned to them in Appendix 1:*
- *Inform the LEAD Partner of any changes that may affect the assigned tasks;*
- *Take part in the steering committee.*

Further, Appendix 1 of the Cooperation Agreement, which is referenced above, describes the three initiatives that comprise the “tasks assigned”:

- *The first phase has already been implemented in January 2021, in the form of an introductory webinar of 1h20 for students, academics and non-experts.*
- *The second phase will be a series of 3 thematic virtual seminars of 2 hours each, with presentations from California and France, throughout 2021. These seminars will compare and contrast public policies on environmental and agricultural conservation at urban edges in the two regions, will highlight the role of research in policy conception, monitoring and the potential for natural and agricultural spaces to contribute to global environmental issues, such as climate resilience and biodiversity conservation.*
- *The third phase of the project will aim at comparing further the open space preservation dynamics of the Plateau de Saclay and the Santa Clara Valley, with the study carried on by Marie Jussaume, currently PhD student studying urban planning at the Sorbonne University.*

The Authority’s obligations are called out in Appendix 1 of the Cooperation Agreement specifically as:

- *The OSA contributes to the project only in terms of human resources and time. The OSA chooses the partners and the strategic orientations of the project in California, and maintains the dynamics (i.e. relationships) among partners in California. The OSA has a say in the overall project strategy, theme, and content.*

These obligations represent modest commitments of staff time which are already underway, and which have been incorporated into annual projections of staff priorities at the Authority. There is no commitment of Authority financial resources contained in the Cooperation Agreement.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board authorize the General Manager to execute the Cooperation Agreement between the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority and Terre et Cité.

Prepared by:

Marc Landgraf, External Affairs Manager

Attachment(s): Resolution 21-26 – A Resolution of the Governing Board of the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority Authorizing Execution of a Cooperation Agreement with Terre et Cité Regarding Development and Execution of International Climate Webinars

Exhibit B -- Cooperation Agreement Between the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority and Terre et Cité