
R-21-50
Meeting 21-10
May 27, 2021

AGENDA ITEM #3

To: Board of Directors
Open Space Authority

From: Andrea Mackenzie
General Manager

SUBJECT

Approval of Resolution Recognizing Pride Month and Committing to Creating Safe, Welcoming, and Inclusive Outdoor Spaces for All

REVENUE/COST

There is no cost associated with this item.

BACKGROUND

The Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (Authority) is committed to better understanding the field and context that the agency works within, which includes recognizing the historic and current marginalization and traumas that have been inflicted on certain communities while doing this work. In order to work towards a more equitable future where each and every person has the opportunity to feel safe and welcome in natural spaces, the agency is committed to listening, learning, and seeking constant improvements, all through the lens of the Authority's mission to conserve the natural environment, support agriculture, and connect people to nature.

To better understand the demographics of the residents and communities the Authority serves and their unique needs related to access of nature, the Authority conducted a community assessment in 2015 that provided a detailed picture of the jurisdiction. The Understanding Our Community report identified barriers that prevent some residents from going outdoors to enjoy nature and receive its many health benefits, and the Authority used the data contained within the report to inform the Urban Grant Programs, guide our Environmental Education programs to the areas of greatest need, and prioritize and inform all of our Community Engagement activities, such as local events, community meetings, and building partnerships. In 2020, Understanding Our Community Phase II was released. Phase II builds on this analysis and utilizes additional research and partner input to illuminate the needs of the area's residents that can be addressed, in part, by improved access to nature.

These projects and investments have helped lay the foundation for the Authority's work moving forward, and the agency will continue to listen, learn, and seek opportunities to implement meaningful changes in an effort to create spaces that feel welcoming and safe for all.

DISCUSSION

The Authority is committed to connecting all people to nature throughout its jurisdiction, both in its open space preserves and in urban open spaces. Pride Month is celebrated annually in June to honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan. The recognition and celebration works to achieve equal justice

and equal opportunity for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning/queer, intersex (LGBTQI+) Americans.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the Resolution Recognizing Pride Month and Committing to Creating Safe, Welcoming, and Inclusive Outdoor Spaces for All.

Prepared by:

Lena Eyen, Legislative Specialist

Attachment(s): Resolution 21-29 – A Resolution of the Governing Board of the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority Recognizing Pride Month and Committing to Creating Safe, Welcoming, and Inclusive Spaces for all