

Fiscal Year 2014-15 TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION

Check One Grant Program:

- Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation
- Transit Planning for Sustainable Communities
- Transit Planning for Rural Communities

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| PROJECT TITLE | |
|----------------------|--|

| | |
|---|--|
| PROJECT LOCATION (city and county) | |
|---|--|

| | APPLICANT | SUB-APPLICANT | SUB-APPLICANT |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Organization | | | |
| Mailing Address | | | |
| City | | | |
| Zip Code | | | |
| Executive Director/designee and title | Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| E-mail Address | | | |
| Contact Person and title | Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Contact E-mail Address | | | |
| Phone Number | | | |

FUNDING INFORMATION
Use the Match Calculator to complete this section.
[Match Calculator](#)

| Grant Funds Requested | Local Match - Cash | Local Match - In-Kind | Total Project Cost |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |

Specific Source of Local Cash Match (i.e. local transportation funds, local sales tax, special bond measures, etc.)

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APPLICATION**

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

Information in this section must directly be tied to the applicant's address.

All legislative members in the project area do not need to be listed.

| State Senator(s) | | Assembly Member(s) | |
|------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|
| Name(s) | District | Name(s) | District |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

*Use the following link to determine the legislators:
<http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/> (search by address)

Grant applications must clearly demonstrate how the proposed transportation planning project promotes State and Federal Transportation Planning Goals. Select all that apply.

STATE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GOALS

- Improve Multimodal Mobility and Accessibility for All People: Expand the system and enhance modal choices and connectivity to meet the state's future transportation demands.
- Preserve the Multimodal Transportation System: Maintain, manage, and efficiently utilize California's existing transportation system.
- Support a Vibrant Economy: Maintain, manage, and enhance the movement of goods and people to spur the economic development and growth, job creation, and trade.
- Improve Public Safety and Security: Ensure the safety and security of people, goods, services, and information in all modes of transportation.
- Foster Livable and Healthy Communities and Promote Social Equity: Find transportation solutions that balance and integrate community values with transportation safety and performance, and encourage public involvement in transportation decisions.
- Practice Environmental Stewardship: Plan and provide transportation services while protecting our environment, wildlife, historical, and cultural assets.

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FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GOALS

- Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.
 - Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
 - Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
 - Increase accessibility and mobility of people and freight.
 - Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns.
 - Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight.
 - Promote efficient system management and operation.
 - Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.
-

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1. Project Description (100 words maximum) (25 points): Briefly summarize project.

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2. Project Justification (Do not exceed the space provided.) (25 points): Describe the problems or deficiencies the project is attempting to address, as well as how the project will address the identified problems or deficiencies.

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3. Project Management (50 points)

- A. Attached Scope of Work in required Microsoft Word format (25 points)
- B. Attached Project Timeline in required Microsoft Excel format (25 points)

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TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANT
APPLICATION**

Application Signature Page

If selected for funding, the information contained in this application will become the foundation of the contract with Caltrans.

To the best of my knowledge, all information contained in this application is true and correct. If awarded a grant with Caltrans, I agree that I will adhere to the program guidelines.

Signature of Authorized Official (Applicant)

Print Name

Title

Date

Signature of Authorized Official (Sub-Applicant)

Print Name

Title

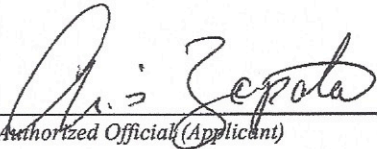
Date

**Fiscal Year 2014-15
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Application Signature Page

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Signature of Authorized Official (Applicant)

City Manager, City of San Leandro

Title



Signature of Authorized Official (Sub-Applciant)

Western Region Director, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

Title

Chris Zapata

Print Name

1/30/14

Date

LAURA COHEN

Print Name

1/31/14

Date

**Fiscal Year 2014-15
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANT
APPLICATION**

Application Signature Page

If selected for funding, the information contained in this application will become the foundation of the contract with Caltrans.

To the best of my knowledge, all information contained in this application is true and correct. If awarded a grant with Caltrans, I agree that I will adhere to the program guidelines.

Signature of Authorized Official (Applicant)

Print Name

Title

Date

Signature of Authorized Official (Sub-Applicant)

Print Name

Title

Date

Assistant CM, City of Oakland

14 JAN 30 PM 11:19
CITY OF OAKLAND
OFFICE OF CITY MANAGER

SCOPE OF WORK: San Leandro Creek Trail Master Plan

INTRODUCTION

The proposed San Leandro Creek Trail Master Plan is an effort to develop a plan, design concepts, and implementation strategy for a multi-use path along the San Leandro Creek in the cities of San Leandro and Oakland. This project will build on several years of preliminary outreach and analysis of the corridor, through which Merritt College engaged hundreds of community residents; over a decade worth of effort by the Friends of San Leandro Creek to restore a thriving riparian corridor within Oakland and San Leandro; and many other efforts by a diverse group of stakeholders. The Master Plan effort will consolidate and expand on this work to further broaden stakeholder involvement, build critical organizational partnerships, and conduct a more in-depth analysis of the opportunities and constraints associated with developing a multi-use trail in this unique corridor. Special emphasis will be given to including residents and organizations that focus their efforts on disadvantaged communities, particularly the Sobrante Park and Columbia Gardens neighborhoods in Oakland. Primary project partners in this effort include the City of San Leandro; City of Oakland; Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC); San Leandro Creek Alliance (a coalition of local stakeholders); Merritt College; and a consulting team.

The San Leandro Creek Alliance has served as the forum for ongoing meetings of a diverse group of project partners, including the cities of San Leandro and Oakland, East Bay Regional Parks District, Merritt College, BART, Alameda Flood Control District, Friends of San Leandro Creek, and RTC. Friends of San Leandro Creek has recently secured a technical assistance grant from the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program to support the intensification of the outreach efforts, resources which will provide a valuable complement to the Master Plan effort proposed through this application to Caltrans.

The purpose of the project is to develop a project master plan and feasibility analysis. The target area for a proposed trail along the San Leandro Creek is currently on property owned by the Alameda County Flood Control District (which has provided a letter of support, included with this application) and various private property owners. Any management, operations, or maintenance responsibilities associated with a planned trail is not assumed by any of the applicants or sub-applicants by participating in this coordinated planning.

This scope of work reflects the anticipated process and lists deliverables for the San Leandro Creek Trail Master Plan.

RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

City of San Leandro

The City of San Leandro is the lead applicant for this project. San Leandro will be the grant recipient, will assign staff to manage the grant, and will execute contracts with Caltrans and the sub-recipients. City of San Leandro staff will participate in all aspects of the project, coordinate closely with other members of the project team, review grant products, and perform grant administration functions as required. The City has also committed to providing \$10,000 toward the matching requirement for the grant.

City of Oakland

The City of Oakland is a sub-applicant for the purposes of this proposal. Approximately 50 percent of the trail alignment is located within the boundaries of Oakland, and City of Oakland staff will play a key role in ensuring the consultation with Oakland stakeholders, providing review and consultation with the consultant team and other project partners to ensure consistency with City of Oakland planning priorities, and potential coordination of future trail construction with other capital projects near the potential trail alignment. The City of Oakland will provide a portion of the required matching funds through an in-kind contribution of planning services by planner David Ralston, who has engaged extensively with community-based groups in this part of the City, and has a pending request for \$20,000 to analyze the feasibility of the Oakland portion of the project.

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) is a sub-applicant for purposes of this proposal. RTC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to create a nationwide network of trails for active living communities to help create healthier places for healthier people. A national leader in the trail building movement for 28 years, RTC's Western Region office is based in San Francisco and provides trail/bicycle/pedestrian policy information and trail development technical assistance to communities throughout California. RTC draws on a national network of trail managers and professional staff to develop successful strategies for trail planning, design construction and maintenance. RTC specializes in community engagement, developing and delivering community workshops, and participates in the development of trail feasibility studies and master plans. RTC's Western Regional Office has developed many educational tools and resources for communities including reports on how trails affect safety, crime, liability, and property values. Barry Bergman, Western Region Manager of Trail Development, brings nearly 20 years of planning experience to the project and will serve as RTC's lead staff. Western Region Director Laura Cohen will provide project oversight of RTC's work as well as expertise in developing implementation strategies, particularly in terms of funding.

Planning/Engineering Consultants

Through the preparation of a Request for Proposals (RFP) and a competitive bid process, the City of San Leandro, in coordination with the City of Oakland, RTC, and the San Leandro Creek Alliance, will select one or a team of planning/engineering consultants with demonstrated expertise in trail planning and design. This consultant will carry out most of the technical work in this project, and will be primarily responsible for preparation of the draft and final reports, with guidance from the key project partners. The consultant's deliverables will include illustrations, plans, alternatives analysis, and design concepts (including photo simulations of the proposed trail) developed through the input provided by stakeholders and review of site opportunities and constraints. Recommended Trail alignment alternatives and phasing will be identified and trail design standards will be provided. Conceptual designs will be developed to demonstrate project feasibility.

Throughout this application, "Project Team" will be used to refer to the City of San Leandro, City of Oakland, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, and the Consultant.

OVERALL PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Build on previously conducted analysis and community outreach efforts regarding the development of a multi-use trail along San Leandro Creek as well as the long-term vision of the restoration of the Creek.
- Coordinate with the efforts of the National Park Service Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) staff, which has awarded a technical assistance grant to Friends of San Leandro Creek to further the development of partnerships to support the Trail.
- Broaden the existing partners to effectively educate and engage local residents, other community-based stakeholders, with a special focus on outreach to disadvantaged neighborhoods such as Columbia Gardens and Sobrante Park, as well as Estudillo Estates, Bay-O-Vista and Sheffield Village; merchant and business groups such as the Airport Area Business Association; and public agencies about the potential of the San Leandro Creek Trail as a community resource. The location of the Trail offers a particularly unique opportunity to link low-income residents directly to local employment sites as well connections to the regional job market via improved transit system access.
- Actively solicit participation from groups that represent disadvantaged community groups in the neighborhoods along the San Leandro Creek corridor. The Project Team has already engaged a number of social equity groups, such as City County Neighborhood Initiative, Higher Ground Neighborhood Development Corporation, Community Reform Church, and representatives of the Tribal community.
- Identify and address real or perceived community concerns about the development of a trail along San Leandro Creek, such as trail safety, impact on property values, crime and liability.
- Identify opportunities and constraints regarding the development of the San Leandro Creek Trail as well as a planning-level assessment of costs for construction, operations, and maintenance of the facility. This will include consideration of opportunities for community-based stewardship.
- Identify alignment options for the Trail including trailheads and access points to provide connections to adjacent schools, parks, commercial centers and transit nodes.
- Identify at-grade street crossing locations (e.g. Hegenberger Rd. and 98th Ave.), and develop conceptual design treatments for facilitating crossings by trail users.
- Evaluate key issues to be addressed for under-crossings at I-580/Benedict Dr./MacArthur Blvd., I-880, Bancroft Ave., East 14th St. (CA-185), San Leandro Blvd., BART, Alvarado St., and Union Pacific tracks.
- Develop general concepts for interpretive signage that reflects the history, culture and ecology of San Leandro Creek; this will include consideration of best management practices for addressing the concerns of the native Tribal community.
- Develop recommended trail standards and sample cross-sections.
- Develop a prioritized list of project segments and key milestones to be achieved as part of an implementation strategy.
- Consider the needs of watershed restoration, habitat, and flood control as part of the preliminary planning and design process.

Task 1: Project Planning and Coordination

The project partners will work with government agencies, nearby businesses, schools, neighborhood residents and other key stakeholders to identify key issues and gather physical planning information related to the study area.

- Task 1.1: Project Kickoff Meeting.** To prepare for a kickoff meeting, the City of San Leandro will enter into subcontracts with the City of Oakland and RTC. To kick off the project, City of San Leandro staff will conduct a meeting with City of Oakland staff, RTC, the San Leandro Creek Alliance and the Caltrans Project Manager to discuss the process, expectations, roles, and responsibilities. The group will tour and photograph key locations along the project corridor.
Responsible Party: City of San Leandro, City of Oakland, RTC
- Task 1.2: Project Team Coordination.** The Project Team will hold monthly meetings with Caltrans to provide status updates on the project and ensure that the project remains on schedule and within budget.
Responsible Party: City of San Leandro
- Task 1.3: Prepare RFP and Select Consultants.** The City of San Leandro will provide Caltrans with a copy of their procurement procedures to ensure compliance with grant guidelines. The Project Team will prepare a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the selection and hiring of a planning/engineering team with expertise in trail design, including consideration for meeting or exceeding Caltrans' disadvantaged business enterprise goals. The Project Team and other review panel members (including a representative of the San Leandro Creek Alliance) will review proposals, conduct interviews as necessary, and select a consultant. The City of San Leandro will contract with the selected Consultants.
Responsible Party: City of San Leandro, City of Oakland, RTC
- Task 1.4: Data Collection and Analysis.** Working with the Technical Advisory Committee, the Consultant will identify, research, collect, organize and evaluate information for the study area including demographic profile of the population in the vicinity of the corridor, relevant traffic and accident data, the City of San Leandro and City of Oakland General Plans, and other local and regional plans.
Responsible Party: Consultants
- Task 1.5: Prepare Base Maps.** The Consultant will coordinate with the City of San Leandro, City of Oakland, and other key agencies to prepare base maps of the San Leandro Creek corridor. The consultant may also prepare a series of physical analysis maps and drawings at both macro and micro scales to assist in identifying design constraints and opportunities.
Responsible Party: Consultants

| Tasks | Deliverables |
|--------------|---|
| Task 1.1 | Agenda, lists of contacts, digital photos. |
| Task 1.2 | Notes summarizing meeting. |
| Task 1.3 | RFP, subcontracts. |
| Task 1.4 | With guidance from the Project Team, assemble and review relevant plans, documentation collected through previous outreach. |
| Task 1.5 | Base maps, including property boundaries and ownership, existing public access points, streets along the creek corridor, and initial creek bed and bank location. |

Task 2: Public Outreach

In coordination with the Cities of San Leandro and Oakland, RTC will lead a focused outreach and publicity effort throughout the course of the project.

- **Task 2.1: Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meetings.** The Project Team will convene a minimum of four Technical Advisory Committee meetings which will include representatives from Caltrans, local agencies and key community stakeholders to identify important issues associated with the development of the Trail. The TAC will identify key issues to be addressed, including technical issues related to trail design and maintenance needs.
Responsible Party: Project Team
- **Task 2.2: Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Meetings.** The Project Team will convene a Citizen Advisory Committee to ensure representation from the diverse stakeholders in communities along the corridor. Stakeholders involved in this effort will include participants in past outreach efforts, including but not limited to San Leandro Unified School District, Oakland Unified School District, Airport Area Business Association, Merritt College, City County Neighborhood Initiative, Sobrante Park Home Improvement Association, Higher Ground Neighborhood Development Corporation, Communities for a Better Environment, Community Reform Church, tribal representatives selected through a Best Practices Tribal Consultancy, Friends of San Leandro Creek, and other community-based groups. A minimum of four CAC meetings will be held throughout the life of the project.
Responsible Party: Project Team
- **Task 2.3: Develop and Distribute Outreach Materials.** RTC, in coordination with the Cities of San Leandro and Oakland, will develop flyers and other outreach strategies, including social media, to publicize community workshops for neighborhood distribution. Flyers will be distributed through the TAC, CAC, neighborhood groups, their respective communications networks, and direct outreach to potentially impacted property owners. Press releases will be circulated to local and regional newspapers local radio stations, and other media. Outreach will include contacting Spanish-language media, and materials will be developed in English and Spanish as needed.
Responsible Party: RTC
- **Task 2.4: Community Workshops.** A minimum of six (6) community workshops will be held in San Leandro and Oakland to reach out and solicit input from the diverse neighborhoods and stakeholders along the six-mile corridor. These workshops will include interactive planning and mapping exercises done in coordination with the National Park Service as part of their technical assistance support. Merritt College students, who have led numerous community workshops with neighborhood groups during the past several years along the San Leandro Creek corridor, will be providing significant assistance in supporting these workshops. Materials presented at the workshop will include maps of the corridor, and a presentation on the opportunities and challenges posed by the Trail.
Responsible Party: Project Team

| Tasks | Deliverables |
|--------------|---|
| Task 2.1 | Agenda, participant list, meeting notes. |
| Task 2.2 | Agenda, participant list, meeting notes. |
| Task 2.3 | Copies of materials and modes of outreach and distribution summary. |
| Task 2.4 | Presentation materials; summary of input; sign-in sheets. |

Task 3. Plan Development

- **Task 3.1: Draft Plan.** Within two months of the initial round of workshops, the Project Team will develop the Master Plan outline. Within four months of the final workshop, the Project Team will prepare and circulate a draft of the plan for review by Caltrans, staff and the public. The Consultant will provide the majority of the content. The Plan will include recommended alignments, an implementation strategy, planning level cost estimates, recommended trail standards and sample cross-sections, recommended priority segments and funding sources, and an operations and maintenance strategy.
Responsible Party: Consultant
- **Task 3.2: Final Plan.** The Project Team will incorporate revisions based on comments from elected officials, agency staff, and the public and finalize the plan.
Responsible Party: Consultant
- **Task 3.3: Plan Presentation.** The Cities of San Leandro and Oakland will present the final plan to their respective City Councils.
Responsible Party: Project Team

| Tasks | Deliverables |
|--------------|---|
| Task 3.1 | Copies of draft report in pdf |
| Task 3.2 | Copies of Master Plan in pdf and paper formats, and web ready files for public access. Comments included in appendix of final report. |
| Task 3.3 | Presentation materials for Final Plan. |

Task 4: Administration and Fiscal Management

The City of San Leandro will be responsible for securing the Fund Transfer Agreement with Caltrans; contracting with the City of Oakland, RTC, and the consultant; progress reporting and documentation; and invoicing.

- **Task 4.1.** The City of San Leandro will provide invoicing and accounting as required to administer the grant.
- **Task 4.2.** The City of San Leandro will provide quarterly progress reporting as required by Caltrans.
Responsible Party: City of San Leandro

| Tasks | Deliverables |
|--------------|--|
| Task 4.1 | Invoice packages per Caltrans requirements. |
| Task 4.2 | Quarterly reports per Caltrans requirements. |

**California Department of Transportation
Transportation Planning Grants
Fiscal Year 2014-2015**

PROJECT TIMELINE

| Project Title: | | San Leandro Creek Trail Master Plan | | | | | Grantee: | | City of San Leandro | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|------------|---------------|---------------------|---|---------------------|---|---|------------|---|---|---|---|------------|---|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Task Number | Task Title | Responsible Party | Fund Source | | | | Fiscal Year 2014/15 | | | | | FY 2015/16 | | | | | FY 2016/17 | | Deliverable | | | | | | |
| | | | Total Cost | Grant | Local Cash | Local In-kind | J | A | S | O | N | D | J | F | M | A | M | J | | J | A | S | O | N | D |
| Task 1. Project Planning & Coordination | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 1.1 | Project Kickoff Meeting | City of | \$2,975 | \$1,548 | \$77 | \$1,350 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Agenda, lists of contacts, digital photos. |
| Task 1.2 | Project Team Coordination | City of | \$9,490 | \$6,126 | \$304 | \$3,060 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Notes summarizing meeting. |
| Task 1.3 | Prepare RFP, Select Consultants | City of | \$6,075 | \$2,882 | \$143 | \$3,050 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | RFP, subcontracts. |
| Task 1.4 | Data Collection and Analysis | Consultants | \$21,375 | \$13,195 | \$655 | \$7,525 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Data summary and review of relevant plans and documentation collected through previous outreach. |
| Task 1.5 | Prepare Basemaps | Consultants | \$10,775 | \$9,456 | \$469 | \$850 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Base maps, including property boundaries and ownership, existing public access points, streets along the creek corridor, and initial creek bed and bank location. |
| | Subtotal | | \$50,690 | \$33,207 | \$1,648 | \$15,835 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 2. Outreach & Publicity | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 2.1 | Technical Advisory Committee | Project | \$23,930 | \$18,578 | \$922 | \$4,430 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Agenda, participant list, meeting notes. |
| Task 2.2 | Citizen Advisory Committee Meetings | Project Team | \$18,765 | \$12,847 | \$638 | \$5,280 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Agenda, participant list, meeting notes. |
| Task 2.3 | Develop, Distribute Outreach Materials | RTC | \$18,375 | \$13,143 | \$652 | \$4,580 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Copies of materials and modes of outreach and distribution summary. |
| Task 2.4 | Community Workshops | Project Team | \$54,400 | \$46,421 | \$2,304 | \$5,675 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Presentation materials; summary of input; sign-in sheets. |
| | Subtotal | | \$115,470 | \$90,989 | \$4,516 | \$19,965 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 3. Plan Development | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 3.1 | Draft Plan | Consultant | \$53,400 | \$45,969 | \$2,281 | \$5,150 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Copies of draft report in pdf |
| Task 3.2 | Final Plan | Consultant | \$19,475 | \$17,363 | \$862 | \$1,250 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Copies of Master Plan in pdf and paper formats, and web ready files for public access. Comments included in appendix of final report. |
| Task 3.3 | Plan Presentation | Project | \$8,500 | \$7,098 | \$352 | \$1,050 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Presentation materials for Final Plan. |
| | Subtotal | | \$81,375 | \$70,430 | \$3,495 | \$7,450 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 4. Administration | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 4.1 | Project Reporting | City of San | \$2,125 | \$2,025 | \$100 | \$0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Invoice packages per Caltrans requirements. |
| Task 4.2 | Project invoicing/accounting | City of San | \$5,100 | \$4,859 | \$241 | \$0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Quarterly reports per Caltrans requirements. |
| | Subtotal | | \$7,225 | \$6,884 | \$341 | \$0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTALS | | | \$254,760 | \$201,510 | \$10,000 | \$43,250 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Context Map of San Leandro Creek Trail Masterplan



The San Leandro Creek Trail would run from East to West connecting essential trails and transit corridors including the Ridge Trail, East Bay Greenway, Bay Trail, BART, East 14th Street, 880 and 580. The trail crosses designated Priority Development Areas that appear in light purple swaths on the map in San Leandro and Oakland. The trail is also in walking distance to Sebrante Park Elementary School, James Madison Middle School and Bancroft Middle School.

Scenes from the San Leandro Creek in San Leandro and Oakland

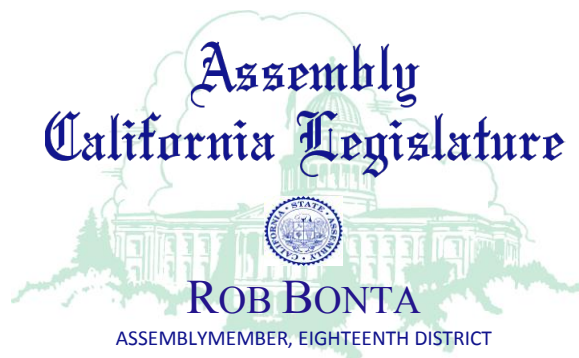
The images below were taken during a tour of the San Leandro Creek corridor, as Professor Robin Freeman of Merritt College introduced participants to the beauty, the potential, and the challenges involved in maximizing the potential of the corridor as a resource for the cities of San Leandro and Oakland. The San Leandro Creek Trail Master Plan will be a key step in realizing this vision.





STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0018
(916) 319-2018
FAX (916) 319-2118

DISTRICT OFFICE
ELIHU M. HARRIS STATE BUILDING
1515 CLAY STREET, SUITE 2204
OAKLAND, CA 94612
(510)286-1670
FAX (510)286-1888



COMMITTEES
CHAIR, PUBLIC EMPLOYEES,
RETIREMENT AND SOCIAL
SECURITY
BANKING AND FINANCE
ELECTIONS AND REDISTRICTING
HEALTH
TRANSPORTATION

SELECT COMMITTEE
CHAIR, GUN VIOLENCE IN THE EAST
BAY

January 28, 2014

Chris Zapata
City Manager, City of San Leandro
835 East 14th Street
San Leandro, CA 94577

Dear Mr. Zapata:

I write in strong support of the City of San Leandro's FHWA Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation grant application for the proposed San Leandro Creek Multi-Use Greenway Trail master plan development.

Through the San Leandro Creek Multi-Use Greenway Trail, the City of San Leandro, in coordination with local residents, agencies, and stakeholders, seeks to improve the quality of life and transportation systems in the East Bay. By creating a continuous multi-use trail from the hills to the shoreline along the San Leandro-Oakland corridor, the region will have access to active transportation, regional parks, and potential new businesses. The project creates a more multi-modal, livable community that helps support a sustainable system and contributes to the mobility, access, and safety of residents in the community.

The San Leandro Creek Multi-Use Greenway Trail will require continued regional coordination, and the City of San Leandro should be awarded a FHWA Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation grant to bring this important project to fruition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rob Bonta". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rob Bonta
Assemblymember, 18th District

City of San Leandro

Civic Center, 835 E. 14th Street
San Leandro, California 94577
www.sanleandro.org



January 30, 2014

California Department of Transportation
Division of Transportation Planning
POB 942874 MS-32
Sacramento, CA 94274-0001

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT – CITY OF SAN LEANDRO GRANT APPLICATION TO
PARTNERSHIP PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

Dear Sir or Madame:

I'm writing on behalf of myself and the organization I lead, 'Friends of the San Leandro Creek' (FSLC). I was introduced to the concept and vision to create a greenway connecting the San Francisco Bay Trail and Lake Chabot along San Leandro Creek in July, 2011. The organization (FSLC) was formed in the mid-1990's to create awareness and advocacy for a waterway that has been sadly ignored for 140 years. San Leandro Creek is one of three 'open' creeks in the East Bay (the others are Alameda and Wildcat Creeks). Both of the other creeks have been restored and/or protected by organizations dedicated to their health and vitality:

- A portion of Wildcat Creek was one of the original sites purchased by the newly-formed East Bay Regional Park District in the 1930's.
- Alameda Creek won a protracted fight with the San Francisco PUC to restore enough water flow to support salmonid life cycles a couple of years ago.

The Bay Area has witnessed a resurgence of wildlife species since the environmental movement was launched around 50 years ago. 'Save the San Francisco Bay' is a success: beaver, river otters, Osprey and Bald Eagles are back in Tilden Park, Martinez, Lake Chabot and many other sites around the bay. We see firsthand that, given the chance, and with a lot of care and hard work, formerly damaged habitats can be restored to their natural condition.

Our 'working group,' San Leandro Creek Alliance, was formed 2 years ago in order to start the work of creating a San Leandro Creek Greenway. We are made up of an Environmental Science professor, East Bay Regional Park District/East Bay Municipal Water District/BART board trustees, Alameda County Flood Control District, and Rails to Trails staffers. FSLC has an active calendar of annual events as well as providing creek and watershed awareness curricula to local schools and groups (<http://fslc.org/>).

An urban creek trail is hardly unique; one that courses along 6 miles of densely populated open creek in and out of two cities from East to West is unique. And a much-needed open space and alternative transit route in this built out area. Please join and support us in our efforts to create this greenway.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Gregory
City Councilmember District 1
President, Friends of the San Leandro Creek

Stephen H. Cassidy, Mayor

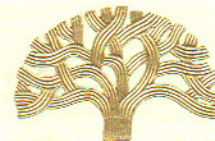
City Council:

Pauline Russo Cutter
Jim Prola

Michael J. Gregory
Ursula Reed

Benny Lee
Diana M. Souza





CITY HALL • 1 FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA • OAKLAND , CALIFORNIA 94612

LAURENCE E. REID
Vice Mayor
Councilmember District #7
lreid@oaklandnet.com

(510) 238-7007
FAX: (510) 238-6910
TDD: (510) 839-6451

Katie Benouar, Chief
Department of Transportation
Division of Transportation Planning
P.O. Box 942874, MS-32
Sacramento, CA 94274-0001

January 27, 2014

RE: Application for Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation Grant for San Leandro Creek Multi-Modal Greenway Project

Dear Ms. Benouar:

I am very pleased to offer my enthusiastic support for Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation Grant Planning Assistance from Cal Trans for the proposed San Leandro Creek Multi-Modal Greenway project.

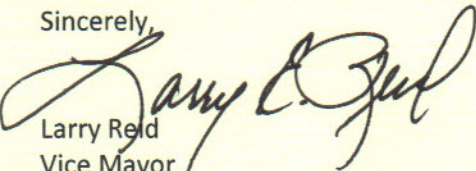
As the elected representative for Oakland Council District Seven (East Oakland bordering San Leandro), one of my main on-going priorities has been addressing the lack of recreational and open space opportunities for our at-risk neighborhoods, such as Columbian Gardens and Sobrante Park. My office has worked in partnership with the EBRPD, BART and the County of Alameda on several key linear-park projects including the recently funded East Bay Greenway and the efforts to increase access to the MLK Regional Park, Bay Trail and San Leandro Bay. This project will further these goals.

The San Leandro Creek is an amazing and underutilized right-of-way that, when improved as a restored creek and trail can dramatically improve the quality of life for residents and provide valuable access to spaces of nature and access for mobility. Moreover, I have also seen other cities that have made great use of restoring creeks and greenways to transform their communities.

Without a doubt, this project can turn the San Leandro Creek from being a "back door" dumping ground to becoming a prized "front door" community asset that activates creek side businesses, provides educational opportunities for adjacent schools and links neighborhoods to the beautiful regional parks we have in the East Bay Area. Most importantly, I see this as an issue of environmental equity and, for this reason, I whole heartedly support the planning and technical expertise Cal Trans can bring to this process in partnership with the other community stakeholders involved.

On behalf of the City of Oakland District Seven, we look forward to the opportunity to work closely with Cal Trans and move this project to reality for the health and resiliency of all our communities.

Sincerely,


Larry Reid
Vice Mayor
District 7



January 24, 2014

Michael J. Gregory
City Councilmember, District I
City of San Leandro
835 East 14th Street
San Leandro, CA 94577

RE: Application for Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation Grant for the San Leandro Creek Multi-Use Greenway Trail

Dear Councilmember Gregory,

On behalf of the East Bay Regional Park District, I am very pleased to offer my enthusiastic support for the Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation Grant for the proposed San Leandro Creek Multi-Use Park Greenway Trail.

The San Leandro Creek is an amazing and underutilized right-of-way that, when improved as a restored creek and trail can dramatically improve the quality of life for residents and provide valuable access to spaces of nature and access for mobility. The creek connects two East Bay Regional Parks: Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline, near the Oakland Airport, and Lake Chabot Regional Park in the foothills above San Leandro and Oakland. This multi-purpose trail will not only link the two parks, but provide a transportation corridor connecting neighborhoods, businesses, schools, and transit hubs (the Oakland Airport and BART).

Without a doubt, this project can turn the San Leandro Creek from being a “back door” dumping ground to becoming a prized “front door” community asset that activates creekside businesses, provides educational opportunities for adjacent schools and links neighborhoods to the beautiful regional parks we have in the East Bay Area.

We look forward to the opportunity to work closely with the City of San Leandro, the City of Oakland and the Rails to Trails Conservancy to move this project to reality for the health and resiliency of all our communities.

Sincerely,

Robert Nisbet
Assistant General Manager – Land Division
East Bay Regional Park District

Board of Directors

Ayn Wieskamp
President
Ward 5

Whitney Dotson
Vice-President
Ward 1

Ted Radke
Treasurer
Ward 7

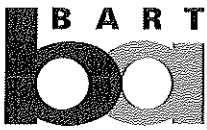
Doug Siden
Secretary
Ward 4

Beverly Lane
Ward 6

Carol Severin
Ward 3

John Sutter
Ward 2

Robert E. Doyle
General Manager



SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT

300 Lakeside Drive, P.O. Box 12688
Oakland, CA 94604-2688
(510) 464-6000

2014

January 22, 2014

Joel Keller
PRESIDENT

Thomas M. Blalock, P.E.
VICE PRESIDENT

Grace Crunican
GENERAL MANAGER

The Honorable Michael J. Gregory
City Councilmember, District 1
City of San Leandro
835 East 14th Street
San Leandro, CA 94577

RE: Application for Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation
Grant for the San Leandro Creek Multimodal Greenway Trail

DIRECTORS

Gail Murray
1ST DISTRICT

Joel Keller
2ND DISTRICT

Rebecca Saltzman
3RD DISTRICT

Robert Raburn, Ph.D.
4TH DISTRICT

John McPartland
5TH DISTRICT

Thomas M. Blalock, P.E.
6TH DISTRICT

Zakhary Mallett, MCP
7TH DISTRICT

James Fang
8TH DISTRICT

Tom Radulovich
9TH DISTRICT

Dear Councilmember Gregory,

As the elected Director for the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) representing District 4, I am pleased to offer my enthusiastic support for the Caltrans Transportation Partnership Planning Grant for the proposed San Leandro Creek Multimodal Greenway Trail project (SLC Greenway).

Over the past several years I have regularly met with other project partners representing the City of San Leandro, City of Oakland, East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC), San Leandro Creek Alliance, and Merritt College. In late 2013 we secured a small technical assistance grant from the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program to support the intensification of our outreach efforts. We now seek Caltrans' support for broader public involvement in the decision-making process.


The SLC Greenway proposal meets State and Federal goals to offer safe multimodal mobility by providing non-motorized access to BART's fare gates. The lower reaches of San Leandro Creek pass near the San Leandro and Coliseum BART Stations. This Greenway would be interconnected with an existing network of bikeways and the Bay Trail to encourage healthy, pollution free commute options, trips to school, and recreational access to the EBRPD's Martin Luther King Regional Shoreline. It will also help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

State goals to promote social equity are also supported by the SLC Greenway. Oakland and San Leandro communities bordering San Leandro Creek are precluded from access to creek banks where some existing flood control improvements offer ready opportunities to create continuous paths that travel through six miles of built-up urban environments. Offering a safe route to transit can provide at-risk individuals with an economical means of traveling to work or school. In Oakland the path would connect the airport area businesses and the

Coliseum BART Station with the Columbia Gardens and Sobrante Park neighborhoods. Further upstream we seek to connect the San Leandro BART Station and downtown with Estudillo Estates, Sheffield Village and Chabot Park neighborhoods.

On behalf of the residents in BART's District 4, I am excited by the prospect to work with Caltrans to transform this fenced creek right-of-way into a park corridor that protects the environment and provides the adjacent communities with a Creekside Greenway path.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Raburn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping tail.

Robert Raburn, PhD

Director

District 4

San Leandro Unified School District

Office of the Superintendent

January 23, 2014

Michael J. Gregory
City Councilmember, District 1
City of San Leandro
835 East 14th Street
San Leandro, CA 94577

RE: Application for Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation Grant for the San Leandro Creek Multi-Use Greenway Trail

Dear Councilmember Gregory,

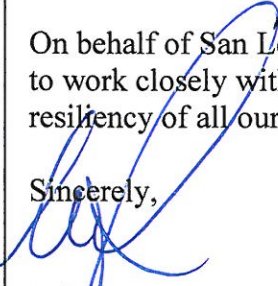
I am very pleased to offer my enthusiastic support for the planning grant from Cal Trans for the proposed San Leandro Creek Multi-Use Greenway Trail project.

The San Leandro Creek is an amazing and underutilized right-of-way that when improved as a restored creek and trail it can dramatically improve the quality of life for residents and provide valuable access to spaces of nature and access for mobility. This project will further increase access to the MLK Regional Park, Bay Trail and San Leandro Bay. I have heard that many, especially youth, already use this creek-way as a trail – going through holes in the fence – as it allows the most direct way to school or to get to the nearest shopping and BART transit centers in the City of San Leandro. Other residents, especially the older ones, fondly remember how, in prior-times, the creek was their park, where they would go to fish, enjoy the running water and go hiking. Moreover, I have also seen other cities that have made great use of restoring creeks and greenways to transform their communities.

Without a doubt, this project can turn the San Leandro Creek from being a “back door” dumping ground to becoming a prized “front door” community asset that activates creekside businesses, provides educational opportunities for adjacent schools and links neighborhoods to the beautiful regional parks we have in the East Bay Area. Most importantly, I see this as an issue of environmental equity and, for this reason, I whole heartedly support the planning and technical expertise Cal Trans can bring to this process in partnership with the other community stakeholders involved.

On behalf of San Leandro Unified School District, we look forward to the opportunity to work closely with Cal Trans and move this project to reality for the health and resiliency of all our communities.

Sincerely,


Mike McLaughlin, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Board of Education

Lance James
President

Ron Carey
Vice-President

Vince J. Rosato
Clerk

Mike Katz-Lacabe
Member

Corinia N. López
Member

Diana Prola
Member

Jason Toro
Member

Mike McLaughlin, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Rosanna Mucetti, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent
Educational Services

Song Chin-Bendib
Associate Superintendent
Business Services

John Thompson, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent
Human Resources



Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District

David J. Armijo, General Manager

January 29, 2014

Chris Zapata
City Manager
City of San Leandro
835 East 14th Street
San Leandro, CA 94577

RE: Support for Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation Grant Application for the San Leandro Creek Multi-Use Greenway Trail

Dear Mr. Zapata:

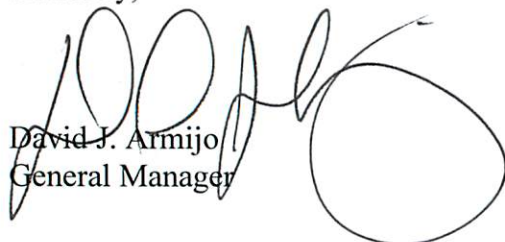
On behalf of AC Transit, I fully support the City of San Leandro's application for funding from Caltrans' Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation Grant to develop a master plan for the proposed San Leandro Creek Multi-Use Greenway Trail.

The San Leandro Creek is an underutilized right-of-way and so this is a great opportunity to improve access for all. A restored urban creek and trail system can dramatically improve the quality of life for residents, providing a resource for active transportation, access to nature, as well as generating jobs and enhancing property values. The San Leandro Creek corridor will also connect to the Bay Trail and the Ridge Trail, creating an important regional trail connection in Alameda County.

We expect the San Leandro Creek Trail would become a prized community asset that activates creekside businesses and provides educational opportunities for adjacent schools. AC Transit is pleased to be part of this project which will improve access links from neighborhoods to the East Bay regional parks with consideration to AC Transit's service. The Trail would also serve important environmental justice goals by providing a critical connection for many low-income residents to schools and employment opportunities.

We look forward to the opportunity to work closely with the project partners and communities in San Leandro and Oakland to move this project to reality and improve the quality of life for all our communities.

Sincerely,


David J. Armijo
General Manager



January 22, 2014

Chris Zapata
City Manager
City of San Leandro
835 East 14th Street
San Leandro, CA 94577

RE: Support for Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation Grant Application for the San Leandro Creek Multi-Use Greenway Trail

Dear Mr. Zapata:

On behalf of the San Francisco Bay Trail Project, I offer my support for the City of San Leandro's application for funding from Caltrans' Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation Grant to develop a master plan for the proposed San Leandro Creek Multi-Use Greenway Trail.

The San Leandro Creek is an amazing and underutilized right-of-way. It is one of three 'open creeks' in the East Bay (along with Alameda Creek in Fremont and Wildcat Creek in Richmond). A restored urban creek and trail system can dramatically improve the quality of life for residents, providing a resource for active transportation, access to nature, as well as generating jobs and enhancing property values. The San Leandro Creek corridor will connect to the Bay Trail and the Ridge Trail, creating an important regional trail connection in Alameda County.

Without a doubt, this project can turn the San Leandro Creek from being a "back door" dumping ground to becoming a prized "front door" community asset that activates creekside businesses, provides educational opportunities for adjacent schools and links neighborhoods to the beautiful regional parks we have in the East Bay area. The Trail would also serve environmental justice goals by providing a critical connection for many low-income residents to schools and employment opportunities.

We look forward to the opportunity to work closely with the project partners and communities in San Leandro and Oakland to move this project to reality for the health and resiliency of all our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laura Thompson
Bay Trail Project Manager



Bay Area
**Ridge
Trail**
Council

January 27, 2014

Chris Zapata
City Manager
City of San Leandro
835 East 14th Street
San Leandro, CA 94577

RE: Application for Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation Grant for the San Leandro Creek Multi-Use Greenway Trail

Dear Mr. Zapata,

I am delighted to offer support for the City of San Leandro's application for funding from Caltrans' Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation Grant to develop a master plan for the proposed San Leandro Creek Multi-Use Greenway Trail.

Partners working to develop this vision for the Trail include the City of Oakland, East Bay Regional Parks District (EBRPD), BART, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Merritt College, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, and the County of Alameda (flood control district and District 3 political leadership). There have also been numerous community meetings with residents of the corridor during the past several years, and this grant provides a tremendous opportunity to build on these efforts to fully engage the stakeholders in the area.

The San Leandro Creek is an amazing and underutilized right-of-way. It is one of three 'open creeks' in the East Bay (along with Alameda Creek in Fremont and Wildcat Creek in Richmond). A restored urban creek and trail system can dramatically improve the quality of life for residents, providing a resource for active transportation, access to nature, as well as generating jobs and enhancing property values. Many already use this creek-way as a trail, going through holes in the fence, as it allows the most direct way to school or to get to the nearest shopping and BART transit centers in the City of San Leandro. This creek-way trail will also support the regional trail network, as it will serve as a connector trail between the Ridge Trail and the Bay Trail.

Without a doubt, this project can turn the San Leandro Creek from being a "back door" dumping ground to becoming a prized "front door" community asset that activates creekside businesses, provides educational opportunities for adjacent schools and links neighborhoods to the beautiful regional parks we have in the East Bay area. The Trail would also serve environmental justice goals by providing a critical connection for many low-income residents to schools and employment opportunities.

We look forward to the opportunity to work closely with the project partners and communities in San Leandro and Oakland to move this project to reality for the health and resiliency of all our communities.

Sincerely,

Janet McBride





Bay Area
**Ridge
Trail**
Council

Janet McBride
Executive Director





EAST BAY BICYCLE COALITION

Promoting bicycling as an everyday means of transportation and recreation

January 28, 2014

Chris Zapata
City Manager
City of San Leandro
835 East 14th
San Leandro, CA 94577

RE: Application for Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation Grant for the San Leandro Creek Multi-Use Greenway Trail

Dear Mr. Zapata,

I am delighted to offer the support of the East Bay Bicycle Coalition and our 4,500 members for the City of San Leandro's application for funding from Caltrans' Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation Grant to develop a master plan for the proposed San Leandro Creek Multi-Use Greenway Trail.

The San Leandro Creek is an amazing and underutilized right-of-way. It is one of three 'open creeks' in the East Bay (along with Alameda Creek in Fremont and Wildcat Creek in Richmond). This trail will serve as a key connector between the Bay Trail and the to be built East Bay Greenway, enhancing access for San Leandro residents to connect to these trails for both transportation and recreation

A restored urban creek and trail system can dramatically improve the quality of life for residents, providing a resource for active transportation, access to nature, as well as generating jobs and enhancing property values. Many already use this creek-way as a trail, going through holes in the fence, as it allows the most direct way to school or to get to the nearest shopping and BART transit centers in the City of San Leandro.

Without a doubt, this project can turn the San Leandro Creek into a community asset that activates creekside businesses, provides educational opportunities for adjacent schools, links neighborhoods to the beautiful regional parks we have in the East Bay area, and provides connections to other regional trails and transit. The Trail would also serve environmental justice goals by providing a critical connection for many low-income residents to schools and employment opportunities.

We look forward to the opportunity to work closely with the project partners and communities in San Leandro and Oakland to move this project to reality for the health and resiliency of all our communities.

Sincerely,



Renee Rivera
Executive Director

Sobrante Park



Home Improvement Association 457 Caprlstrano Dr. Oakland, CA 94603

January 30, 2014

Chris Zapata
City Manager
City of San Leandro
835 East 14th Street
San Leandro CA 94577

**RE: Application for Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation Grant
for San Leandro Creek Greenway Project**

Dear Mr. Zapata

The Sobrante Park Home Improvement Association would like to convey its strong support for Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation Grant application from Caltrans for the proposed San Leandro Creek Linear Park Greenway Trail project.

The Sobrante Park Home Improvement Association (SPHIA) established in 1941, is a community-based consortium comprised of concerned community members whose mission is to enhance the lives of all residents by addressing issues and concerns of the neighborhood through collaborative planning and community action as well as provides a forum for service and civic engagement. SPHIA takes action necessary to promote neighborhood engagement and planning.

We encourage your support of the application for the Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation Grant. The San Leandro Greenway Project enhances the Sobrante Park Neighborhood Improvement Plan, as it will not only link current bike trails to regional trails; but also promote recreational opportunities to increase public wellness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LaSonia Williams'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

LaSonia Williams
President, SPHIA



MERRITT COLLEGE
Environmental Management and Technology
12500 Campus Drive, Oakland, CA 94619
www.ecomerritt.org

The Honorable Michael J. Gregory
City Councilmember, District 1
City of San Leandro
835 East 14th Street
San Leandro, CA 94577

RE: Application for Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation
Grant for the San Leandro Creek Multimodal Greenway Trail

Dear Councilmember Gregory,

As the Co-Director of Merritt College's Institute for Sustainable Policy Studies and Emeritus faculty of the Environmental Management and Technology program, I am honored to offer our support and in-kind contribution to this project

My colleagues, students and I initiated this project in 2008, building on the work of neighborhood planners, Friends of San Leandro Creek, and student and faculty work by the University of California, Berkeley dating back more than a decade before 2008.

We will be pleased to continue to support and monitor the robust, and fairly compensated, as appropriate, inclusion of the broadest community and stakeholder involvement including students, tribal consultants, youth, elders, and low income stakeholders as well as involving all related agencies as early as possible into this exciting planning process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robin Freeman".

Prof. Robin Freeman, Chairman, Advisory Group



C/O RHSD
835 E 14th St.
San Leandro, CA 94577

Board of Directors

Michael Gregory, President
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Jan Woycheshin, Secretary
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Claudia Taurean, Membership Coordinator
Maureen Forney

January 23, 2014

Chris Zapata
City Manager
City of San Leandro
835 East 14th Street
San Leandro, CA 94577

RE: Application for Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation Grant for the San Leandro Creek Multi-Use Greenway Trail

Dear Mr. Zapata,

I am thrilled to offer our unqualified support to the San Leandro Creek Multi-use Greenway Trail. Such a planning grant is invaluable to prepare for one of the most exciting projects our creek has had to date.

As Watershed Awareness Coordinator for Friends of San Leandro Creek, this planning grant is something we have been ready and waiting for. This grant will give the San Leandro Creek a new “face” that everyone can see, enjoy and use. Our creek is not easily viewed and I have heard from many residents of the area that they had no idea a creek was here. This grant will give people awareness, and in turn, people will hold the creek as someplace special and important in our community. A natural desire to help and protect the creek will follow.

Connecting the Bay Trail to the Ridge Trail along San Leandro Creek is a powerful dream. Every school day there are children who jump fences and use the creek as a route to school. Having a path can and will be used for groups of kids to walk together to reach school safely. Commuters from San Leandro BART can cross the street and reach the pathway less than a quarter mile from the station. It would then be an easy walk to City Hall or Downtown while enjoying the sight and sounds of the creek and the wildlife that shares it with us. For too long, people have held creeks as dumping grounds for litter and junk, and a place for the homeless to take refuge. When it's out of sight, no one seems to know or care. Opening the creek for everyone to use will deter this behavior. Awareness of this kind can only help bring the need to restore the creek to its former glory and health to the forefront.

*Friends of San Leandro Creek is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization. Taxpayer ID 68-0370579.
Your contributions are tax deductible.
www.fslc.org*

95% of the creeks in California have been destroyed by channelization, culverts or alterations. San Leandro Creek is one of the last remaining open creeks in the East Bay. Planning for a multi-use greenway will accentuate and highlight the very special place San Leandro Creek is. Its location makes it a perfect connector between BART, AC Transit, work, school, and is just a lovely natural place in the middle of an urban area.

Friends of San Leandro Creek wholeheartedly endorse the planning grant and project. We hope that Cal Trans finds the Multi-Use Greenway Trail as important for our community and the environment as we do.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan W. Levenson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan Levenson
Watershed Awareness Coordinator
Friends of San Leandro Creek