



Commission Chair

Mark Green, Mayor - Union City

July 25, 2012

Commission Vice Chair

Scott Haggerty, Supervisor - District 1

Mr. Robert E. Doyle
General Manager
East Bay Regional Park District
2950 Peralta Oaks Court
Oakland, California 94605

AC Transit

Greg Harper, Director

Alameda County

Supervisors

Richard Valle - District 2

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Nate Miley - District 4

Keith Carson - District 5

Subject: Support for the East Bay Regional Park District Community Transformation Grant (CTG) application

BART

Thomas Blalock, Director

Dear Mr. Doyle:

City of Alameda

Rob Bonta, Vice Mayor

The Alameda CTC supports the East Bay Regional Park District's efforts to link health, outdoor activity and green transportation. The Alameda CTC has long supported Active Transportation, linking transportation walking, biking and health, and therefore, I am writing in support of the East Bay Regional Park District's application for a Community Transformation Grant (CTG).

City of Albany

Farid Javandel, Mayor

City of Berkeley

Laurie Capitelli, Councilmember

One of the key elements which make the East San Francisco Bay area a healthy and vibrant place to live is the tremendous asset of the East Bay Regional Park District. With 112,000 acres of accessible parkland, 1,200 miles of trails – including over 200 miles of paved trails which serve as a transportation alternative making it easier for commuters and students to get to mass transit hubs – the District plays a critical role by providing substantial health and quality of life benefits.

City of Dublin

Tim Sbranti, Mayor

City of Emeryville

Ruth Atkin, Councilmember

City of Fremont

Suzanne Chan, Councilmember

City of Hayward

Olden Henson, Councilmember

City of Livermore

John Marchand, Mayor

City of Newark

Luis Freitas, Councilmember

City of Oakland

Councilmembers

Larry Reid

Rebecca Kaplan

Over the years, the District has supported the international *Healthy Parks, Healthy People* (HPHP) initiative – the only regional or local government to do so in the United States. In support of HPHP, the District proposes to lead a multi-sector collaborative – the Get Outdoors! (GO!) Network for Healthy Kids – to further strengthen the relationship between health, education and outdoor activity providers. The GO! Network brings together the Oakland Unified School District, West Contra Costa County Unified School District, Alameda County Office of Education, Children's Hospital in Oakland, the U.C. Berkeley Center for Weight and Health, and EcoVillage (a regional non-profit focusing on sustainable, healthy food and nutrition). This well-rounded collaborative uniquely addresses the CTG strategic directive number two – *Active Living and Healthy Eating* – in the impacted communities of Oakland and Richmond, California.

City of Piedmont

John Chiang, Mayor

City of Pleasanton

Jennifer Hosterman, Mayor

City of San Leandro

Joyce R. Starosciak, Councilmember

The GO! Network has several key components. It embraces the Full Service Community School and District model – a model which promotes schools as sites to meet student, family and community needs. This component will implement Parks Prescription strategies to train teachers and school district staff in the health related value of outdoor activity, and, importantly, where there are opportunities to take advantage of regional park related activities.

Executive Director

Arthur L. Dao

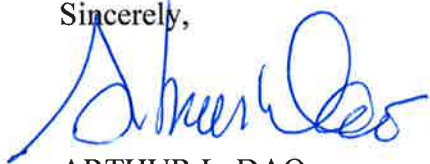
The GO! Network also seeks to promote and institutionalize the model California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights (COBOR) – a statewide resolution which recommends ten outdoor activities every child has the “right” to experience before the age of 14. Included in this component is the District's third grade *Kids Healthy Outdoors Challenge* curriculum – a thoughtful approach for teachers to implement the concepts of COBOR by ensuring they align with curriculum standards. The GO! Network will also shed light on transportation and policy barriers which can literally keep kids from experiencing the outdoors. The District and its' partners will work with other stakeholders – including our agency – to address those challenges. The Alameda County Transportation Commission would welcome the opportunity to advise the collaborative on transportation related matters. Ultimately, the GO! Network will provide a concrete example and replicable model to promote outdoor activity, increase communitywide awareness of opportunities to move outside, fund collaborations and reduce park access barriers.

The District's facilities and programs improve our region's economic competitiveness by providing low-cost, safe outdoor activity opportunities in an urban environment. Connecting the District's role in our community with schools and health care providers will help reduce health care costs for employers, address chronic diseases before they happen, enhance the quality of life for residents, and provide schools additional resources and promotional assets – all of which further bolster business and worker recruiting efforts for our region.

Finally, the District is an agency in the East Bay which successfully links communities together in a manner that has the regional interest at its core. The District is financially sound and has significant local matching funds of its own, as well as other state and federal grants – including a \$10.2 million TIGER II award in 2008 for their paved trail network. The District also has existing partnership with schools and health care providers in our area. As an independent Special District with an elected Board, the District works with all 33 cities and towns in the region, as well as with businesses, non-profits and other government agencies to ensure stakeholders are invested in their success.

Supporting the GO! Network for Healthy. The Alameda CTC supports this proposal and urges your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,



ARTHUR L. DAO
Executive Director