

February 22, 2022

Ms. Luisa Valiela  
Environmental Protection Agency  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**Subject: Letter of Commitment to partner with the Santa Clara Valley Water District on Coyote Creek Bank Repair and Trash Raft Cleanup Initiatives focused on City of San Jose lands.**

Dear Ms. Valiela:

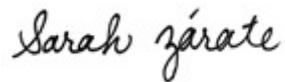
I am writing in support of the grant application from the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) under the EPA's San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund (SFBWQIF). The grant will be used to support creek cleanup efforts to reduce trash, debris and pollutants generated by encampments near waterways. In addition to those efforts, Valley Water has the support of the City of San Jose to perform trash raft removals and repair of an unhoued excavation which is exacerbating erosion and sedimentation into Coyote Creek adjacent to Williams Street Park. This grant funding will also support outreach services that will focus on increasing public education about the importance of water quality and creek stewardship. Implementation of the proposed effort will focus on the Coyote Creek corridor in San Jose, portions of which include disadvantaged community areas.

Valley Water, with jurisdiction throughout Santa Clara County and a nationally recognized leader in water resource management, would bolster its existing partnership with the City of San Jose and seek other stakeholders such as community groups and service organizations willing to assist this effort. The proposed integrated project with the City of San Jose will heighten awareness and leverage additional community resources needed for success. Implementation of this strategy would improve public awareness about the fragile ecosystem and its importance to our water quality.

I strongly endorse this application and urge your favorable review. If a grant is awarded, the City of San Jose would be willing to establish a formal partnership with Valley Water to implement the bank repair and trash raft removal efforts to enhance environmental quality for residents and

visitors to Santa Clara County and the San Francisco Bay area. We support innovative projects such as these, and a grant award will ensure that this collaborative project is successfully and efficiently implemented.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Zarate".

Sarah Zarate  
Director, Office of the City Manager