April 9, 2012

To: Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors’ Housing, Land Use, Environment, and Transportation (HLUET) Committee

From: Garnetta Annable, Spokesperson
Friends of Santa Clara County Parks, Trails, and Open Space

Re: COUNTY PARKS ACQUISITION POLICIES WITHIN URBAN AREAS

Overview

On behalf of many community leaders, elected officials, and organizations who have a long history of supporting the creation of an outstanding system of regional parks, trails, and open space lands here in Santa Clara County, we are writing in response to the Board of Supervisors’ request for public comment regarding the County’s Parks acquisition policies within urban areas.

Our basic recommendations are as follows:

1. Reaffirm the County’s long-standing plans and policies that identify the role of the County Parks Department and the County Parks Charter Fund as that of providing parks and trails of countywide significance – within both rural and urban areas

2. Enhance the County’s leadership and support for the provision of urban trails

3. Enhance the County’s coordination with cities to address urban park needs – consistent with the County’s basic role regarding the provision of parks and trails of countywide significance

4. Address the needs of parks-deficient unincorporated urban islands through the provision of trails and parks of countywide significance within and near these urban islands

5. Assign highest priority for use of the County Parks Charter Fund within urban areas to the completion of major gaps in the existing network of trails of countywide significance, including important connections to the regional network
Basic Criteria for County Decision Making: Integrity, Effectiveness, and Vision

Although there are a number of different issues involved, we believe that ultimately there are three basic criteria that should guide the Board of Supervisors’ decision making with regard to the County’s roles in urban area parks and trails acquisition:

1. Integrity,
2. Effectiveness, and
3. Implementing the vision of an excellent countywide system of regional parks and open space lands, linked by a network of regional trails.

Integrity

The role and importance of integrity arises in at least two different ways

1. The Integrity of Adopted County Plans and Policies

   Over the past four decades, virtually every major parks and trails plan and policy adopted by the County has affirmed and reaffirmed that the County’s role with regard to meeting the parks and recreation needs of Santa Clara County’s residents has been that of providing of parks and trails of countywide significance.

   [see Attachment A: “An Introduction to the Santa Clara County Parks Charter Fund and Current Issues Regarding Its Use”]

   Regional or countywide significance has been the cornerstone for County parks and trails policy in such documents as:

   a. “A Plan of Regional Parks for Santa Clara County” – which was adopted as part of the County’s General Plan in 1972 and has provided the vision that has guided the implementation of the countywide parks and trails system ever since.

   b. The “Parks and Recreation” chapter of the County General Plan (revised and adopted 1995) – with which proposed parkland acquisitions using the County Parks Charter Fund must be consistent, as specified in voter-approved ballot measures.

   c. The “Strategic Plan for the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation System” (adopted 2003) – which defines the mission of the County
Parks Department, the vision it is seeking to implement, and how it will seek to implement that vision.

In addition to being a long-standing cornerstone of County parks and trails plans and policies, countywide significance has also guided the County’s actual use of the County Parks Charter Fund.

The “Acquisition History” report recently prepared by the County Parks Department concluded that of the 62 land acquisition projects within the urban area that received funding from the County Parks Charter Fund since 1990, all of them were projects of countywide significance.

So neither long-standing County policies nor actual County acquisitions over the past twenty years support the use of the Charter Fund for small neighborhood parks, lacking in countywide significance.

Every Board of Supervisors over the past twenty years has upheld the integrity of adopted County parks and trails plans and policies through their decisions regarding the use of the Charter Fund. It is important that the current Board do so also.

2. The Integrity of the County’s Obligations to the Voters

The County Parks Charter Fund – the primary source of funding for the acquisition, development, operation and maintenance of the County park system – exists because voters throughout Santa Clara County have approved its creation and extension in six separate elections over the past forty years.

Each time the Board of Supervisors has put countywide ballot measures before county voters to create or extend the County Parks Charter Fund, the ballot language has required that the Charter Fund be used only for projects that are consistent with the County General Plan.

The most recent County Parks Charter Fund extension ballot measure, approved in 2006 by 71% of the voters, included the following provision:

"The county shall not acquire real property for any park purpose until the Board of Supervisors has determined that the acquisition is in conformity with the adopted county parks and recreation element of the general plan."

Since it is likely that the County may seek voter approval for further extensions of the County Parks Charter Fund in future years, it is important that the County maintain the integrity of its commitment to honor the will of the voters.

Asking the voters to approve public funding for one purpose, and then using the
money for something else, would be a violation of the public’s trust.

In all of the public forums and online polls conducted by the County Parks Department over the past two years, the public has repeatedly responded overwhelmingly that the completion of existing planned trails was its highest priority for County involvement within urban areas (along with protection and enhancement of riparian areas).

It would be another breach of faith with the residents of Santa Clara County if the Board were to ignore this clear direction from the public – which the Board solicited – and divert County Parks staff and financial resources into providing small neighborhood parks within unincorporated islands – for which there was very little public support during the past two County Parks Department outreach processes conducted over the last several years.

Effectiveness

In addition to maintaining the integrity of adopted plans and policies and commitments to the voters, County decision making regarding the Parks Charter Fund should be guided by the goal of maximizing the effectiveness of the Fund’s use.

Although it may currently appear that there is a substantial amount of unspent money in the Charter Fund, it is insufficient to fund all of the urban trail projects of countywide significance that are currently waiting to be implemented – including several important trail projects near parks-deficient neighborhoods.

These projects, when completed, will provide not only significant recreation benefits, but also significant transportation, air quality, and climate change mitigation benefits, due to their potential to be used by large numbers of county residents, both for recreation and transportation purposes.

Diverting County staff and financial resources to create small neighborhood parks within unincorporated islands – which may entail ongoing, long term County funding – is not an effective use of the limited amount of money available in the Charter Fund.

If the County wishes to provide enhanced leadership in meeting urban parks and trails needs, it should focus its attention on urban trails projects of countywide significance that have not yet been completed. These are the projects that have the potential to provide the greatest recreation, transportation, and public health benefits and most effectively meet the needs of Santa Clara County’s current and future residents.

Friends of Santa Clara County Parks, Trails, and Open Space
Implementing the Vision of a Countywide System of Regional Parks and Trails

Great parks, trails, and open space systems are often the result of big, bold visions and plans, that are implemented, piece-by-difficult-piece over a number of years, and even decades.

Such has been the case with regard to the regional parks and trails system in Santa Clara County.

Four decades ago, visionary leaders from throughout Santa Clara County came together to develop a master plan for an interconnected countywide system of regional parks and trails, within both urban and rural areas, that would meet the long term needs of our ever-growing population.

That vision was expressed in "A Plan of Regional Parks for Santa Clara County," which has provided the basic blueprint for the great regional parks, open space, and trails network that has evolved in this county over the intervening years – and continues to evolve.

It has been a vision that has served Santa Clara County well and has withstood the test of time.

As Santa Clara County's population continues to grow, and as many places in Santa Clara County continue to transition from suburban toward urban, it is important that County parks and trails efforts continue to be guided by and focused on the critical elements of that big, bold vision of a regional parks and open space system, linked by a network of trails of countywide significance – in both urban and rural areas.

Now more than ever, the County needs to be focusing its attention, its leadership, and its limited resources on the "Big Picture" – by working to support and facilitate the completion of the major elements of the countywide system, and avoiding the distractions, diversions, and lost opportunities that would result from the County becoming involved with the provision of small, neighborhood parks.
Attachments:

Attachment A: An Introduction to the Santa Clara County Parks Charter Fund and Current Issues Regarding Its Use
Attachment B: Basic Principles for County Parks Charter Fund Parkland Acquisitions Within Urban Areas
Attachment C: Endorsements for the Basic Principles Proposed by the Friends of Santa Clara County Parks, Trails, and Open Space
Part 1: OVERVIEW

The County is Seeking Public Input Regarding the Appropriate Uses of the County Parks Charter Fund in Urban Areas

At the direction of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, the County Parks Department has been seeking public input regarding appropriate uses of the County Parks Charter Fund in urban areas.

Long-standing County Parks Policies are Threatened

The County Parks Charter Fund is the primary source of funding for the County Parks Department's acquisition, development, maintenance, and operations activities within both rural and urban areas.

Since its initial creation by the voters forty years ago, the County Parks Charter Fund has only been used for parks and trails projects of countywide significance, that provide benefits to residents throughout Santa Clara County. The provision of neighborhood, community, and citywide parks and recreation facilities has been the responsibility of the cities, and other agencies such as local school districts.

Some members of the Board of Supervisors are seeking to change these long-standing County policies and practices to eliminate the requirement that projects funded by the Charter Fund must be of countywide significance. They would like to be able to use the Fund for small neighborhood parks within their supervisorial districts.

Maintaining the Integrity of the County Parks Charter Fund and the County General Plan

The proposed changes to the County Parks Charter Fund acquisition policies would undermine the integrity of the Charter Fund by allowing it to be used for purposes the voters have never been asked to approve when extension of the Charter Fund has been put before them.

This could erode the widespread public support that the Charter Fund has had from voters over the years – and reduce the prospects for voter approval in the future. (In 2006, the Charter Fund extension received 71% approval from the voters.)

The proposed changes would also undermine the credibility of the County's General Plan and the County Parks Department's Strategic Plan – both of which clearly state that the County's role in meeting the parks and recreation needs of our county's residents is that of providing regional parks and trails that are of countywide significance.
Meeting Current and Future Countywide Needs

Santa Clara County currently has a population of around 1.8 million people. Projections from the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) indicate that our county’s population may grow by almost half a million more residents over the next twenty years.

During that same time period, we will be facing increasing challenges in responsibly managing our county’s natural resources, as climate change alters our natural environment.

In an era of limited financial resources for local governments – and for the County Parks Charter Fund – it is important that the Charter Fund’s resources be used wisely in order to maximize its benefits in meeting both current and future countywide needs in urban and rural areas.

Expenditure of funds from the Charter Fund for small, neighborhood parks that would benefit relatively few people would divert money that would otherwise be used for parks and trails of countywide significance that would benefit far more people. It would also divert money needed to meet the increasing challenges of responsibly managing our county’s diverse natural resources as climate change continues to occur.

The Friends of Santa Clara County Parks, Trails, and Open Space

The Friends of Santa Clara County Parks, Trails, and Open Space is an informal coalition of individuals and organizations that believes the creation of a countywide system of interconnected rural and urban parks, trails and open space areas is essential to the social, economic, and environmental well-being of Santa Clara County – for the benefit of current and future generations.

With the financial resources needed to create that countywide system rapidly shrinking during the present economic downturn, it is more important than ever that the County Parks Charter Fund be used wisely – in accordance with long-standing County policies.

And it is also more important than ever that the many organizations and individuals that support the creation of that countywide system let the Board of Supervisors know that we are united in our commitment to seeing that the Charter Fund is used only for parks and trails of countywide significance – in both urban and rural areas.

We welcome your support in that effort through your endorsement of the “Basic Principles” for the appropriate uses of the County Parks Charter Fund prepared by the Friends of Santa Clara County Parks, Trails, and Open Space.

We also encourage you to make your views known to the Board of Supervisors through your own letters, emails, and calls.

Friends of Santa Clara County Parks, Trails, and Open Space
Part 2: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Plan of Regional Parks
Since 1972, when the County adopted “A Plan of Regional Parks for Santa Clara County” as part of its General Plan, the County’s role in meeting the parks and recreation needs of Santa Clara County’s residents has been to provide “regional” parks that are of countywide significance, i.e. that serve the recreational and open space needs of residents from throughout the county.

The provision of neighborhood and citywide parks has been the responsibility of the fifteen cities, working with other agencies – particularly school districts, whose many school sites throughout the urban area have afforded opportunities for joint use by both students and other residents of their nearby communities.

The Plan of Regional Parks – and its division of roles and responsibilities between the County and the cities – has served as the basic blueprint for the outstanding countywide system of regional parks and trails that residents of Santa Clara County enjoy today.

County General Plan
The fundamental policies regarding the division of roles and responsibilities between the County and the cities for the provision of parks and recreation lands and facilities have been adopted or reaffirmed by prior Boards of Supervisors as part of the County’s General Plan in both of the comprehensive General Plan reviews that have occurred since the Plan of Regional Parks was adopted.

The “Parks and Recreation: Countywide Issues and Policies” section of the County’s current General Plan clearly articulates the division of roles and responsibilities between the County and the cities in the following policies:

C-PR 15: The provision of public regional parks and recreational facilities of countywide significance both in urban and rural areas shall be the responsibility of county government.

C-PR 16: The provision of neighborhood, community, and citywide parks and recreational facilities should be the responsibility of cities and other appropriate agencies.

[Note: The reference to “other appropriate agencies” in policy C-PR 16, as explained in the background text for that section of the General Plan, does not include the County.]
If the Board of Supervisors were to begin providing neighborhood parks of only local significance, it would be contrary to these General Plan policies and would undermine the credibility of both the County and its General Plan.

County Parks Charter Fund

In order to assure a predictable, ongoing source of revenue for the County's regional park system, the Board of Supervisors in 1972 asked County voters to approve an amendment to the County Charter – the "constitution" that provides the basic framework for the functions of County government.

That amendment, which was approved by the voters in a countywide election, established the County Parks Charter Fund which annually sets aside an assured amount of money from the County General Fund to support County parks land acquisition, development, operations, and maintenance.

The ballot measure approved by the voters assured funding for a specified number of years. In six separate elections since its initial approval, voters have overwhelmingly supported the extension of the County Parks Charter Fund.

The most recent extension approved by voters occurred in June 2006 when voters approved County "Measure B," which extends the Charter Fund through the end of FY 2021. This extension was approved by an overwhelming 71% of the voters countywide.

The Voters Guide mailed to the homes of all registered voters prior to the June 2006 election regarding Measure B included the following "Impartial Analysis from the County Counsel":

"The purpose of this measure is to ensure that a minimum amount of money be placed into the County park fund for acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of County parks."

The text of the ballot measure approved by the voters includes the following provisions:

(2) "The Board of Supervisors shall appropriate the money in the county park fund for the acquisition, development, or acquisition and development of real property for county park purposes and for the maintenance and operation of county parks."

(3) "The county shall not acquire real property for any park purpose until the Board of Supervisors has determined that the acquisition is in conformity with the adopted county parks and recreation element of the general plan." [emphasis added]
With regard to the latter provision of the ballot measure requiring consistency with the parks and recreation element of the County General Plan, it bears repeating that the General Plan states that:

C-PR 15: The provision of public regional parks and recreational facilities of countywide significance both in urban and rural areas shall be the responsibility of county government.

C-PR 16: The provision of neighborhood, community, and citywide parks and recreational facilities should be the responsibility of cities and other appropriate agencies.

Use of the County Parks Charter Fund monies for neighborhood parks—as has been proposed by some members of the Board of Supervisors—would not only violate the provisions of the County Parks Charter Fund ballot measure approved by voters, but would also violate the policies of the County General Plan.

**County Parks Strategic Plan**

In 2003, following over 2½ years of effort and community outreach, the Board of Supervisors adopted a “Strategic Plan for the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation System.”

The mission of the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department, as stated in the adopted Strategic Plan is:

“To provide, protect and preserve regional parklands [emphasis added] for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations.”

The vision statement of the Strategic Plan reads as follows:

“We create a growing and diverse system of regional parks, trails, and open spaces of Countywide significance [emphasis added] that connects people with the natural environment, offers visitor experiences that renew the human spirit, and balances recreation opportunities with resource protection.

The County’s role in meeting the parks and recreation needs of Santa Clara County residents was very clearly articulated as being that of providing regional parks of countywide significance—not of duplicating the role and the efforts of the cities by providing neighborhood parks of only local significance.

Arbitrarily changing or ignoring these policies would essentially negate the “Strategic Plan for the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation System” adopted by the Board of Supervisors after over 2½ years of effort and extensive community outreach.
County Parks Charter Fund Acquisition Priorities
Community Outreach Process - 2009

In June 2009, the Board of Supervisors directed the County Parks Department to undertake a review of the acquisition priorities of the County Parks Charter Fund.

The County Parks Department, together with a hired consultant, conducted an extensive review of County parks and recreation plans and policies and held five community workshops throughout the county to receive public input regarding the parks acquisition priorities for the County Parks Charter Fund.

The overwhelming feedback obtained from those public outreach sessions, reported to the Board in 2011, was that the County should continue to focus on the provision of parks and recreation areas of countywide significance – in both rural and urban areas.

Many people, from throughout the county, participated in this community outreach process. Failure of the Board of Supervisors to follow the guidance provided by the public during this outreach process will call into question the sincerity of this – and future – County efforts to obtain community input.

County Parks Charter Fund Acquisition Priorities
Community Outreach Process - 2011

Apparently not satisfied with the community input that was received from the public outreach process initiated in 2009 and concluded in 2011, the Board of Supervisors subsequently directed the County Parks Department to conduct another round of public outreach, focused on the use of the County Parks Charter Fund within urban areas.

The motion adopted by the Board at that time, although claiming to reaffirm long-standing County policies regarding the use of the Charter Fund, notably omitted the phrase “of countywide significance,” which has been the cornerstone of County parks policy for the past four decades.

By omitting that cornerstone phrase, it has opened the door to allowing the use of the Charter Fund for small, neighborhood parks which will divert resources away from meeting far greater countywide needs.

CONCLUSION

We are at a very critical juncture in Santa Clara County’s decades-long efforts to create an interconnected system of regional parks, trails, and open space lands – a system whose importance will continue to grow over time.

To meet current and future challenges, we need to continue to focus the County Parks Charter Fund expenditures exclusively on regional parks and trails of countywide significance – in both rural and urban areas.
Friends of Santa Clara County
Parks, Trails, and Open Space

BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR COUNTY PARKS CHARTER FUND
PARKLAND ACQUISITIONS WITHIN URBAN AREAS

About the Friends
The Friends of Santa Clara County Parks, Trails, and Open Space is an informal coalition of individuals and organizations that believes that the creation of a countywide system of interconnected rural and urban parks, trails and open space areas is essential to the social, economic, and environmental well-being of Santa Clara County.

Purpose of These Basic Principles
The Basic Principles in this document were prepared in response to a request by the County Board of Supervisors for public input regarding appropriate uses of the County Parks Charter Fund for parkland acquisitions within urban areas of Santa Clara County.

BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR COUNTY PARKS CHARTER FUND
PARKLAND ACQUISITIONS WITHIN URBAN AREAS
The Friends of Santa Clara County Parks, Trails, and Open Space supports the following Basic Principles and urges the Board of Supervisors to adopt them as part of the County of Santa Clara Parkland Acquisition Plan.

Principle #1: Consistency with Voter Intent and with County Plans and Policies
The County Parks Charter Fund should only be used in ways that are consistent with:

a. The Charter Fund ballot language approved by the voters,
b. The County General Plan's parks and urban development policies
c. The County Parks Department's Strategic Plan

Principle #2: Countywide Significance
The County Parks Charter Fund should only be used for parks and trails - in rural and urban areas - that are of countywide significance.

Principle #3: Parks Deficient Areas
High priority should be considered for proposed urban parkland acquisitions of countywide significance within or near areas that are parks deficient.
BACKGROUND

The County Parks Charter Fund

The County Parks Charter Fund is the primary source of funding for the Santa Clara County Parks Department. Over the past forty years, it has been one of the major sources of funding for the expansion of Santa Clara County’s regional parks, trails, and open space system – both in rural and urban areas.

It was initially authorized by voters throughout Santa Clara County in 1972 for the purpose of acquiring, developing, operating, and maintaining lands for the County parks system. Voters have subsequently authorized the extension of the Charter Fund on six separate occasions – most recently in 2006, when its extension was approved by an overwhelming 71% of county voters.

Charter Fund Parkland Acquisitions

Historically, the County Parks Charter Fund has been used to fund acquisition of lands for parks and trails – of countywide significance – in both rural and urban areas.

The County has used the Charter Fund to work with numerous other agencies and organizations to create a growing network of regional parks and open space areas within rural areas of the Santa Cruz Mountains, the Diablo Range, and their foothills, connected by a regional trails network that includes the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

Within urban areas and along the Bayfront, the Charter Fund has been used by the County to work with the cities and others in creating a major urban trails network that includes the Bay Trail, Los Gatos Creek Trail, Coyote Creek Trail, Penitencia Creek Trail, San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail, and the Guadalupe River Park and Trail. Many of these trails provide connections to the regional parks, trails, and open space areas in the hillsides and Baylands – or are planned to do so in the future.

While much has been accomplished over the past forty years to create an outstanding countywide system of interconnected regional parks, trails, and open space areas in Santa Clara County, much remains to be done – both in rural and urban areas.

This important unfinished work includes efforts to complete the missing gaps in the countywide trail system within urban areas, through projects such as the Three Creeks and the Five Wounds Trails in San Jose, and others that will link the urban area to hillside parks, trails, and open space lands. It also involves a number of important land acquisitions and trail connections in the hillsides and mountains.

As Santa Clara County’s population, recreation, and natural resource management needs continue to grow, it is critical that:

a. The Charter Fund’s integrity is maintained – i.e. that it be used only for purposes that are consistent with what voters authorized – so that it retains widespread public support, and

b. Its limited resources are used wisely – on projects of countywide significance – to maximize their benefits for both current and future generations.

Friends of Santa Clara County Parks, Trails, and Open Space

October 27, 2011
ENDORSERS OF THE BASIC PRINCIPLES*
Prepared by
the Friends of Santa Clara County Parks, Trails, and Open Space

**The Basic Principles for County Parks Charter Fund Parkland Acquisitions Within Urban Areas* [see Appendix B]

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Friends of Santa Clara County
Parks, Trails, and Open Space
April 4, 2012

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
County Government Center
70 West Hedding Street
10th Floor
San Jose, CA 95110

Subject: Parkland Acquisition Plan - 2011 Update: Urban and Suburban Park Needs

Dear Chairman Shirakawa and Supervisors:

The Santa Clara County Open Space Authority appreciates the opportunity to offer comment on the County Parks and Recreation Department’s Parkland Acquisition Plan – 2011 Update regarding development of a formalized acquisition program to address urban and suburban park needs.

Since 2000, the County Parks Department and the Open Space Authority have successfully partnered on a number of regionally significant park and open space projects in both the unincorporated areas of the County and within urban and suburban areas. These park and open space projects were successful because they attracted multiple funding sources, including the Park Charter Fund, the Authority’s District 1 benefit assessment, voter-approved state bond funds (Prop. 84) and contributions from cities and foundations. Leveraging funding has been key to completion of projects such as Rancho Canada del Oro (2000) and Blair Ranch (2008) in the unincorporated area and Santa Teresa Historic Park (2003), Martial Cottle (2006) and Three Creeks Trail (2012) in the urban and suburban areas. In these challenging economic times, it is critical that we be as efficient as possible with limited public funds. This means leveraging resources and funding to make strategic public investments, prioritizing projects with a large community benefit, and creatively addressing the operation and maintenance of park, open space and trail projects.

A recent analysis by County Parks showed that 32% of County parkland acquisition expenditures have been on properties within the Urban Service Area. This is an impressive record of accomplishment considering that many special districts in the Bay Region, including the Open Space Authority, typically spend about 20-25% of their acquisition dollars in urban areas.

As the County develops a formalized acquisition program to address urban and suburban park needs, it will be critical that the program include specific guidelines and criteria to prioritize park charter fund expenditures which emphasize the following themes: connectivity, partnerships and sustainability.

- Connectivity – Connecting existing parks and open space across the County and closing the critical gaps in the regional and subregional trail network called for in the Countywide Trails Master Plan, Bay Area Ridge Trail, and Bay Trail; coordinating with cities to acquire and complete the region’s urban trails network, including Penitencia Creek, Three Creeks Trail, Los Gatos Creek Trail, Coyote Creek Trail, Guadalupe River Trail and the proposed Five Wounds Trail.
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
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- **Partnerships** — Increasingly, public and private funders are prioritizing investment in park, open space and recreation projects that demonstrate regional or community-wide benefit, pool multiple sources of funding, and can demonstrate creative approaches for both acquisition and long-term management and stewardship.

- **Sustainability** — Finding creative funding partnerships to care for our existing parks, open space and trails facilities which have and will continue to benefit public health and the quality of life in the County; emphasizing those urban projects that contribute to sustainable communities by linking parks and trails to existing and future transit and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the Parkland Acquisition Plan Update.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Andrea Mackenzie
General Manager

Cc: Board of Directors, Open Space Authority
Citizens Advisory Committee, Open Space Authority