

Loni Hancock

CALIFORNIA STATE SENATOR, NINTH DISTRICT



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July 19, 2012

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

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

Dear Mr. Doyle:

I am writing in support of East Bay Regional Park District's (EBRPD) Community Transformation Grant (CTG) application for the Get Outdoors (GO!) Network for Healthy Kids in Oakland and Richmond, California.

Over the years, EBRPD 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's strategic directive number two: "Active Living and Healthy Eating" in the impacted communities of Oakland and Richmond, California.

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 holistically 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 where there are opportunities to take advantage of regional park related activities.

The GO! Network also promotes and institutionalizes 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 EBRPD'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 keep kids from experiencing the outdoors. EBRPD and its partners will work with other stakeholders to address those challenges. Ultimately, the GO! Network will provide a concrete example of a truly transformative, replicable model to promote outdoor activity, increase communitywide awareness of opportunities to move outside, fund collaborations and reduce park access barriers.

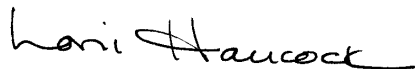
Currently, EBRPD's facilities are used by 14 million visitors a year. Expanding EBRPD's reach into our education and health care communities will further enhance the wellness and health of the East Bay – particularly in the urban corridors of Oakland and Richmond where families have limited safe outdoor options.

EBRPD's facilities and programs improve our region's economic competitiveness by providing low-cost, safe outdoor activity opportunities in an urban environment. Connecting EBRPD'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.

Supporting the GO! Network for Healthy Kids will serve as a model and catalyst for regional wellness and livability. I whole heartedly support this proposal and urge your favorable consideration. This project is an excellent example of federal, state, and local agencies working in partnership

Thank you for considering this request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me through my District Office.

Sincerely,

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

Loni Hancock
Senator

LH:cs