

Written Comments for  
**Regular Public Comment Section**  
- **Consent Agenda**  
- **Non Agenda Items**

[boardfeedback@smcgov.org](mailto:boardfeedback@smcgov.org). **Public Comment:** MEETING DECORUM THE SMC BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

[https://sanmateocounty.granicus.com/player/clip/1189?view\\_id=1&redirect=true&h=f8bd9c06ab47379b4e39a03710414adb](https://sanmateocounty.granicus.com/player/clip/1189?view_id=1&redirect=true&h=f8bd9c06ab47379b4e39a03710414adb)

From the way San Mateo County Supervisor Dave Canepa and Supervisor Noelia Corzo insulted their fellow Supervisor Ray Mueller during the Tuesday 4/25/2023 Supervisor's Meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup>, you would think that they were the Ted Cruz or Marjorie Taylor Greenes of the Board. Unfortunately, President Pine did nothing to stop the embarrassing and shameful comments by the Board members who opposed Supervisor Mueller's Amendment per Agenda items 11 & 12. The President of the Board stood weakly by as phrases like "Racist" "Ignorant" "Vilify" and "Dog Whistle" were deployed by other supervisors. These verbal attacks were entirely unprofessional, and President Pine allowed the political grandstanding on the soapboxes by the other Supervisors while they continued, Race-Baiting the Audience and members of the Public.

Talk about Dog Whistles, what about the words of Supervisor Canepa: (beginning at 3:17:13)?

*"Let me tell you this: Where you live in Menlo Park, it is the Latino Community, all these other communities that makes your kale salad (Audience Applause); when it comes to your white linen tables where you eat, we're preparing your food; were picking your produce. You want to vilify us; you want to vilify us. You don't know anything. I'm sorry; My wife is the Consul General of El Salvador, for fifteen years, Okay? And you come up here and you use your privilege, and you do it around an amendment that never should have happened. I'm disappointed in you, as a person. I've lost respect for you. Because you're dividing the Community and dividing the Latino Community as we speak."*

Does Sup. Dave Canepa expect us to forget who pushed aside the maps put forth by the independent members of the Supervisorial District Lines Advisory Commission (The Unity Map and the Espinosa Maps) so he could draw up the final Supervisory District Map titled "Communities Together" in 2021 that Included West Menlo Park in District 3 – making it the "whitest" and "wealthiest" District in the County? A.) <https://smcdistrictlines.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Communities-Together.pdf> B.) [https://www.smdailyjournal.com/news/local/new-san-mateo-county-district-map-looking-a-lot-like-old-district-map/article\\_00ee6332-4764-11ec-a879-735df5980b84.html](https://www.smdailyjournal.com/news/local/new-san-mateo-county-district-map-looking-a-lot-like-old-district-map/article_00ee6332-4764-11ec-a879-735df5980b84.html) C.) [https://sanmateocounty.granicus.com/player/clip/929?view\\_id=1&meta\\_id=229708&redirect=true&h=e9a9db0bac7f204b1e556fb34eec0585](https://sanmateocounty.granicus.com/player/clip/929?view_id=1&meta_id=229708&redirect=true&h=e9a9db0bac7f204b1e556fb34eec0585)

Apparently, many Community Action Groups were organized to speak out at the April 25<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting and were in favor of blocking any amendment to the ordinance, thereby giving a pass for Murderers, Rapists and Sexual Offenders who may have been undocumented. That choice did not seem to be in the interest of Public Safety, but I do understand that they felt that cooperating with ICE was "Anti-Immigrant."

Supervisor Ray Mueller proposed the exceptions to the SMC Ordinance in the case of murder, rape, and sexual abuse of minors on behalf of the **surviving victims** in his District 3. How many other Districts have had **beheadings, or mass murders of 7 Farmworkers** in their Districts? **ZERO!**

To me, the proposed amendments were intended to adequately protect the community from repeat offenders and **NOT** to vilify anyone, be they undocumented, or here legally. Asylum seekers who come here and work hard throughout our communities, despite being on expired visas, are not the target of his exceptions, and, as one person stated during public comment, it was evident that he wants to protect all residents of San Mateo County and to make it a safe and wonderful place to live. "Should those who perpetrate acts of violence against a community be permitted to be protected by sanctuary?"

I strongly disagree with the picture that Supervisor Canepa painted of Supervisor Mueller at the April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Board Meeting. It was also unnecessary for him to call out Stephanie Sierra, Jackie Speier's daughter, a journalist, during his soapbox speech. By vilifying a fellow member of the Board, it is Supervisor Canepa who is being divisive. **He should be asked to apologize** for his words, insinuations, and his disgraceful behavior.

Sincerely, Carlyse Ann Young - Moss Beach, CA 94038 - Resident of San Mateo County since 1981

**From:** [Nick Tandon](#)  
**To:** [Ray Mueller](#); [CEO BoardFeedback](#)  
**Subject:** Speed Limit on Canada Road  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 10, 2023 10:28:15 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

---

Please consider reducing the speed limit on the portion of Canada Road that is heavily used by bicyclists.

Thank you,  
Nick Tandon  
SMC resident since 2015

## Letter to San Mateo County

Dear Sukhmani S. Purewal & Sherry Golestan,

I am writing this letter to address the modern effects of redlining in areas containing your county. As a growing and long-time citizen in your county, and especially as a student, I grew up often confused about the racial separation and the lack of diversity in my area, and only now after months of research I am able to understand why. Hopefully, you will consider my points and choose to move forward with my suggestions to help reverse the effects of a racist policy that only was legally stopped as soon as 50 years ago.

To start, if you are not familiar with redlining and its policies, I will attempt to give you a quick lesson. Starting in the 1930s, a program called the New Deal was created to distribute home loans to Americans. Attempting to reverse the effects of the Great Depression, the idea of hearty home loans seemed like a great suggestion, until the government decided that not *particularly* everyone was worthy of a loan. Neighborhoods were ranked on a scale of “loan worthiness” from “A to D”.<sup>1</sup> Redlining continued legally all over the country until the creation of the Fair Housing Act of 1968 which outlawed redlining.

Since its outlawing, redlining has had clear and negative effects on all citizens of the bay area, including San Mateo County. Such effects can be seen in the segregation of white homeowners, as  $\frac{1}{3}$  of neighborhoods in the bay area contain "areas of segregated white homeowners."<sup>2</sup> In addition, those who live in previously redlined areas are 2.4x more likely for asthma-related emergency room visits due to airborne diesel particle levels being nearly double compared to non redlined labeled “hazardous” areas.<sup>3</sup> Redlining also has effects on areas as simple as food supply, as redlined areas such as San Francisco and Oakland have zero to no food “co-ops” (healthy food markets) for citizens that live in redlined areas, though this issue is slowly improving in areas such as East Palo Alto.

1. Mentioned in the article titled "What Is Redlining?" by The New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/17/realestate/what-is-redlining.html/>
2. <https://bayareaequityatlas.org/mapping-segregation/>
3. <https://www.sfgate.com/news/article/bay-area-redlining-maps-asthma-health-oakland-sf-13923112.php/>

My last reason to bring attention to the effects of redlining and convey the urgency of these effects is more of a personal reason. As a high school student who lives in Atherton and goes to Menlo-Atherton High School, I get to experience high levels of diversity that were unmatched by my elementary and middle school district, Menlo Park City School District. In my elementary school, I was sheltered from non-white races, and because of this, I was completely blind from the struggles of the citizens of East Palo Alto that were only less than a mile away. Over the past 2 years, I have spent time volunteering in the areas of East Palo Alto such as the food distribution at the Boys & Girls Club in EPA, and have slowly connected to those I never had the chance to meet at school such as Hillview Middle School or Encinal Elementary School. As I slowly opened my eyes to a culture and area that was the extreme opposite of mine, I began to question myself and others of my own race. How could we allow ourselves to so casually isolate from a community that has done little to nothing to harm us, and why was I kept from seeing this community for so long as a child? Why could these children not have the same childhood that I had? We were only a mile apart after all. The answer I led myself to over months of research was mostly linked to redlining, as the physical and racial separation between Atherton and East Palo Alto was only heightened by redlining, the building of 101 throughout the neighborhood, and blockbusting.

Now, as for our county, there is only so much that can be done to undo the separation between the extreme isolation of Atherton and the culture of East Palo Alto, but I believe that this county could help change a few things that would at least help children in redlined areas, such as East Palo Alto. I believe that this county should encourage more citizens and include programs to help citizens of East Palo Alto to go to the well-funded schools of Atherton and Menlo Park. As high schoolers in East Palo Alto have reported to me, schools such as Ceaser Chavez Middle School in East Palo Alto clearly have set the children of East Palo Alto on a poor path, as most struggle or barely even consider the advanced classes (such as College Board Advance Placement classes) of Menlo Atherton High School. The alternative, long-term, and more solid solution to this problem of course would of course be to focus more funding on redlined schools such as those in East Palo Alto, but that seems like a long-term solution that may not

solve this education disparity for a long time. In addition, I believe that citizens in redlined areas should have more programs to help the environmental conditions to prevent a statistically significant rise of health issues simply due to living in a certain area. Previously redlined areas and areas with high concentrations of low wealth in San Mateo County should be monitored for any issues that may give permanent effects on its citizens. Lastly, another long-term solution that is well-desired by many in the county is a solution to the affordable housing crisis seen all over the state. I understand that this problem is a hearty task and is not as simple as “just build more houses,” but I would like this county to keep the issue of affordable housing in mind as land is suggested and approved to build. I also understand that some citizens will oppose this, as even my parents don’t approve of the idea of affordable housing in Atherton as a fear of lowering their housing value (in which a large portion of their wealth lies). But I believe that this county is well able to counter the affordable housing issue to help encourage racial mixing and improve the culture of isolated, rich communities that I’ve felt I missed out so much on as a child.

The effects of redlining are so wide and vast that we very well may never see the end of them in our lifetimes as a county, but I believe that this county possesses the resources and power to help the redlined areas solve long-lasting effects of a racist policy created almost one hundred years ago. For the children, adults, and the future of those in redlined areas, I hope you consider my points and aid the effects of redlining before they get any worse.

Patiently Waiting,

Ethan Armer

Written Public Comment(s)  
for **Item No. 11**

PLN2022-00136 – 206 Sequoia Ave.  
Major Subdivision Construction Proposal

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors,

I have been a homeowner, resident of Redwood City for 30 years. During that time, I have witness a huge increase in the number of multi tenant home complexes as well as mega homes being constructed. The strain of all of those additional people on our infrastructure never seems to enter into the planning aspect of those projects. The sheer volume of people placing all that additional wear on a system that was not meant to handle it is in my opinion reckless.

The proposed construction of yet another Multi Tenant condominium in our neighborhood is a perfect example of the type of infrastructure stress our community does not need. These large scale construction projects will not only create traffic and noise issues but will ultimately lead to failures with our aging sewer system. The sheer additional volume of waste suddenly injected into our strained sewer system will create problems down the line that will impact other resident's properties. When that additional strain on this already taxed system fails, who is going to be stuck with the bill to pay for it? We, the long standing residents of this neighborhood will have to pay.

Why should the long standing residents of Redwood City have to pay to repair, maintain and upgrade an aging sewer system that is being impacted heavily by these large construction projects?

State Density Bonus Laws, however well intended, are often times more burdensome on the surrounding neighborhoods than they are worth. While the city government must adhere to these regulations, it's clear there are some financial benefits as well. Keeping our city vibrant, modernized and growing is understandably important. However, seeing dollar signs should not be the sole emphasis for allowing hasty decisions with poor planning to be rubber stamped. City Planning should also be looking at the impact these multi tenant complexes will ultimately have on the surrounding neighborhoods infrastructure. Water, Energy, Roadways, Garbage and Sewer are all impacted.

Environmental impact studies are all well and good but a neighborhood infrastructure impact analysis would better serve the community. If **Canyon Vista Partners** wants to pay to have the surrounding neighborhood infrastructure upgraded to handle their building's increased strain, before they start to build, I would be OK with this proposed project. Not surprisingly, that type of proactive planning never seems to enter the discussion.

For those reasons, I oppose this construction project.

Thank You,  
Terry & Elizabeth Torres  
283 Sequoia Ave.

Written Public Comment(s)  
for **Item No. 25**



May 19, 2023

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors  
400 County Center  
Redwood City.

**Re: Support for funding of Green Foothills Healing in Nature Program**

Dear President Pine, Vice President Slocum, and Supervisors Corzo, Mueller, and Canepa,

On behalf of the board, staff, and advisory board at Green Foothills, thank you for your consideration of support for our Healing in Nature program. We ask that you approve the resolution authorizing a grant of district-discretionary Measure K funds, not to exceed \$30,000, to Green Foothills to hold Healing in Nature events in District 3. If you have any questions in advance of Tuesday's board meeting, please contact us.

**About Green Foothills' Healing in Nature Program**

Green Foothills' Healing in Nature program fosters meditative and restorative experiences in protected parks and open spaces, aiming to promote conservation, equity, and inclusion within the environmental movement.

The Healing in Nature program aims to create meditative and restorative experiences in protected parks and open spaces, while also promoting conservation, equity, and inclusion within the environmental movement. Launched in 2022, the program was inspired by Valentin Lopez, Chairman of the Amah Mutsun Tribe, who calls upon indigenous and nonindigenous people to heal their relationship with themselves, with each other, and with the Earth.

These unique outings, led by local healers and trained docents, allow participants to deepen their connection with the local ecology, engage in environmental action, and build trust and camaraderie within our community and the conservation movement. By making nature accessible to diverse audiences, the Healing in Nature program contributes to a broader support for land conservation and stewardship.

These outings provide a measurable positive impact they have on participants. Not only do they provide educational opportunities to learn about biodiversity and ecology, they also foster a sense of belonging. Participants leave with a friendly spirit and a desire to become more involved in the conservation movement.

The Healing in Nature program harnesses the lessons we've learned from our Leadership Program where we train community leaders to ground their advocacy in racial equity and collaborative leadership.

**Local. Vocal. Effective.**

(650) 968-7243 • [info@greenfoothills.org](mailto:info@greenfoothills.org) • [greenfoothills.org](http://greenfoothills.org) • 3921 E Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303



By approving funding for the Healing in Nature program, the San Mateo Board of Supervisors would help ensure its success and sustainability. We aim to serve a more diverse and representative range of participants, including BIPOC individuals, those with limited mobility or disabilities, Spanish-speaking individuals, and young people. Our desired outcomes include expanding knowledge of the landscape, fostering a sense of belonging within the conservation community, and motivating participants to actively engage in conservation efforts.

Furthermore, the program seeks to recruit and train volunteer and compensated docents who reflect the diverse identities of the communities we serve, with a special focus on People of Color. This effort aims to enhance representation within the conservation movement and ensure a more inclusive and equitable program.

We will evaluate the program by surveying attendees, docents, healers, and Green Foothills staff, prepare a summary of any recommended changes, and implement the changes in a timely manner based on feasibility.

### **Why funding from the County of San Mateo is important**

Healing in Nature is a new and innovative project of Green Foothills that we envision turning into a standing program and scale over time. On May 18, 2023, the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority approved funding for this program in their jurisdiction and, longer term, we are optimistic that we will be able to secure funding from the Coastal Conservancy, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, and Valley Water.

Funding from the County of San Mateo is critical. If we do not receive this funding, we would continue to work to find other funding for this program so we could implement it in full. If we are not able to find funding from other sources, we would reduce our costs for this program including: holding fewer outings, reducing outreach and partnership activities, not providing compensation for docents who would not be able to docent without compensation, not develop and provide cultural mindfulness training curriculum to docents, and/or limit the evaluation of this program.

### **Intended Outcomes for the Healing in Nature Program**

- Attendees are representative of the diversity of the region (240-300 people served annually, 100-120 people self-identify as BIPOC, 24 people with limited mobility and disabilities, 24 people preferred Spanish interpretation, 24 people under 25 years old)
- 90% Attendees reported they learned something new about the biodiversity, ecology, and watershed of the landscape
- Participants believed the experience fostered a sense of belonging within the conservation community (75% felt the docents, healers, and Green Foothills staff fostered a sense of belonging within the conservation community, 75% feel the outing encouraged a friendly spirit among participants)
- 90% participants expressed a desire to become more involved in the conservation community (including watershed stewardship)
- 5 volunteer docents recruited, trained, and provided cultural mindfulness training.

**Local. Vocal. Effective.**

(650) 968-7243 • [info@greenfoothills.org](mailto:info@greenfoothills.org) • [greenfoothills.org](http://greenfoothills.org) • 3921 E Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303



- 3 compensated docents (who reflect the diverse identities of the communities we serve, specifically we will work to people of Color) recruited, trained, and provided cultural mindfulness training
- Develop a plan for how we will scale the Healing in Nature program through partnerships to be able to offer up to 2 outings a month with a expanded offerings to underserved communities

### **Activities**

- Hold 8-10 Healing in Nature events annually for 30-45 local community members per outing. (1-2 of these outings will be for people with limited mobility, 1-2 for families with children with a focus on lower-income families, 1-2 for people who prefer Spanish interpretation)
- Recruit and manage a team of 6-8 volunteer docents
- Partner with two local healers to design the outings with docents
- Recruit and support the training of 3 compensated docents who reflect the diverse identities of the communities we serve, specifically we will work to recruit people of Color
- Develop and document cultural mindfulness training curriculum to share with the public and partners
- Provide cultural mindfulness training for all docents

### **About Green Foothills**

Green Foothills' mission is to protect the open spaces, farmlands, and natural resources of San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties for the benefit of all through advocacy, education, and grassroots action. Since 1962, Green Foothills has worked on over 900 land use issues, protecting over 185,000 acres of open space.

Thank you again for your consideration of support for Green Foothills' Healing in Nature Program! Your support makes a huge difference.

Sincerely,

Megan Fluke  
Executive Director  
Green Foothills

**Local. Vocal. Effective.**

(650) 968-7243 • [info@greenfoothills.org](mailto:info@greenfoothills.org) • [greenfoothills.org](http://greenfoothills.org) • 3921 E Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303

**From:** [Nancy Federspiel](#)  
**To:** [Dave Pine](#); [Noelia Corzo](#); [Ray Mueller](#); [Warren Slocum](#); [David Canepa](#); [CEO BoardFeedback](#)  
**Cc:** [Julie Hutcheson](#); [jocelyn](#); [Megan Fluke](#); [Justyne Schnupp](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 25: Support for funding of Green Foothills Healing in Nature Program  
**Date:** Friday, May 19, 2023 2:35:27 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

---

## **Subject: Support for funding of Green Foothills Healing in Nature Program**

Dear President Pine, Vice President Slocum, and Supervisors Corzo, Mueller, and Canepa,

Thank you for your consideration of support for Green Foothills' Healing in Nature program. I ask that you approve Agenda Item 25 authorizing a grant of district-discretionary Measure K funds, not to exceed \$30,000, to Green Foothills to hold Healing in Nature events in District 3.

I have lived in unincorporated West Menlo Park since 1994, and I have served as Secretary of the Board of Directors of Green Foothills for the past two years. As a long-time resident of San Mateo County, I feel so privileged to enjoy our amazing open space preserves, coastline, and abundant natural wildlife that surround us in this area, and Green Foothills has played a major role in protecting these valuable resources over the past 60+ years. Our Healing in Nature program strives to make these areas more known and accessible to local residents, especially those who may not have had the opportunity to visit these wonderful spaces. Providing opportunities to engage with nature in a mindful way inspires participants to carry these experiences forward into their everyday lives, families, and communities. I have found that these programs really promote healing connections to the other human participants as well as to the surrounding plants, animals, and natural spaces.

### **About the Healing in Nature Program**

The Healing in Nature program aims to create meditative and restorative experiences in protected parks and open spaces, while also promoting conservation, equity, and inclusion within the environmental movement. Launched in 2022, the program was inspired by Valentin Lopez, Chairman of the Amah Mutsun Tribe, who calls upon indigenous and nonindigenous people to heal their relationship with themselves, with each other, and with the Earth. These unique outings, led by local healers and trained docents, allow participants to deepen their connection with the local ecology, engage in environmental action, and build trust and camaraderie within our community and the conservation movement. By making nature accessible to diverse audiences, the Healing in Nature program contributes to a broader support for land conservation and stewardship.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Federspiel, PhD

**From:** [Jim Wickett](#)  
**To:** [Dave Pine](#); [Noelia Corzo](#); [Ray Mueller](#); [Warren Slocum](#); [David Canepa](#); [CEO BoardFeedback](#)  
**Cc:** [Julie Hutcheson](#); [jocelyn@greenfoothills.org](mailto:jocelyn@greenfoothills.org); [Megan Fluke](#); [Justyne@greenfoothills.org](mailto:Justyne@greenfoothills.org)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 25: Support for funding of Green Foothills Healing in Nature Program  
**Date:** Sunday, May 21, 2023 2:40:42 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

---

May 19, 2023

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors  
400 County Center  
Redwood City.

**Re: Support for funding of Green Foothills Healing in Nature Program**

Dear President Pine, Vice President Slocum, and Supervisors Corzo, Mueller, and Canepa,

Thank you for your consideration of support for Green Foothills' Healing in Nature program. I ask that you approve Agenda Item 25 authorizing a grant of district-discretionary Measure K funds, not to exceed \$30,000, to Green Foothills to hold Healing in Nature events in District 3.

I have owned a several hundred acre ranch consisting of redwood timberland and pasture on the coast of San Mateo County (above Tunitas Creek Beach) for over 50 years and have spent much of that time living and ranching on the property. During that time I have seen distinct waves of threats to the very existence of our open space and its ecology. For example, before 1976 there was the very real threat of "cluster developments" that would have added relatively few houses while forever destroying the coastal open space we now cherish. Thanks to the hard work of Green Foothills, Proposition D was passed, which extended MidPen into San Mateo County.

However, as a former member of the CA Coastal Commission, I learned that our coastal open space is never "saved" and that it always takes a new generation of environmentalists to appreciate and love in their own way our protected lands and the nature it conserves for the surrounding urban areas. Although the thousands of dirt motorcycle riders who tore up our coastal lands in the 1960s and 70s appreciated and wanted to protect the open space in their own way, I'm happy to say that our cultural "enlightenment" in San Mateo County has come a long way, replacing dirt motorcycles with mountain biking and hiking.

The opportunity for the Board of Supervisors today is to become thought leaders to supplement and expand the love and use of our open spaces to a new diverse generation who can take the appreciation for these lands to a higher level, and thus help protect them for future generations. We have an opportunity to nourish this growing "use-case" by supporting the *Healing in Nature Program* which will bring long term environmental and economic benefits to our County. As people begin to engage in this and other programs like it, I believe costs related to stress, mental health, drug dependency, etc. will materially decrease, resulting in San Mateo County being an even better and more healthy place to call home. Being innovators in this new wave of

environmental appreciation is indeed exciting, and one in which I hope the Board of Supervisors will want to grasp a leadership position in.

With my best wishes for a successful outcome,  
Jim Wickett  
Native Sons Road  
Woodside, CA 94062

---

### **About the Healing in Nature Program**

Green Foothill's Healing in Nature program aims to create meditative and restorative experiences in protected parks and open spaces, while also promoting conservation, equity, and inclusion within the environmental movement. Launched in 2022, the program was inspired by Valentin Lopez, Chairman of the Amah Mutsun Tribe, who calls upon indigenous and nonindigenous people to heal their relationship with themselves, with each other, and with the Earth. These unique outings, led by local healers and trained docents, allow participants to deepen their connection with the local ecology, engage in environmental action, and build trust and camaraderie within our community and the conservation movement. By making nature accessible to diverse audiences, the Healing in Nature program contributes to a broader support for land conservation and stewardship.

**From:** [Smita Garg](#)  
**To:** [Dave Pine](#); [Noelia Corzo](#); [Ray Mueller](#); [Warren Slocum](#); [David Canepa](#); [CEO BoardFeedback](#)  
**Cc:** [Julie Hutcheson](#); [Jocelyn Rodriguez](#); [Megan Fluke](#); [Justyne Schnupp](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 25: Support for funding of Green Foothills Healing in Nature Program  
**Date:** Monday, May 22, 2023 9:24:42 AM

---

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.**

---

May 22, 2023

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors  
400 County Center  
Redwood City.

Re: Support for funding of Green Foothills Healing in Nature Program

Dear President Pine, Vice President Slocum, and Supervisors Corzo, Mueller, and Canepa,

Thank you for your consideration of support for Green Foothills' Healing in Nature program. I ask that you approve Agenda Item 25 authorizing a grant of district-discretionary Measure K funds, not to exceed \$30,000, to Green Foothills to hold Healing in Nature events in District 3.

My name is Dr. Smita Garg, and I am on the advisory board of Green Foothills. Healing in Nature has empowered People of Color like me and many from marginalized communities to come forward and participate in the local conservation movement. With its focus on nature, connection, and belonging, the program has opened doors to marginalized communities so they may have equal access to protected parks and open space preserves in our area. For many, loss of their own land and culture has resulted in a disconnection with nature. But climate change affects everyone. Loss of green habitat affects all communities. Some in marginalized communities have never had a say in the matter or access to these parks and open spaces before. We are hoping to change that with Healing in Nature. Since participating in this program, I have been able to experience nature in the San Francisco Bay Area in a way I never thought possible. It has done wonders to my health and wellbeing. It has allowed me to feel a sense of belonging with other participants. I feel a part of the community and feel a sense of responsibility towards the land we all share. I sincerely believe in Chairman Valentin Lopez' desire to see all of us heal each other and Mother Earth.

About the Healing in Nature Program:

The Healing in Nature program aims to create meditative and restorative experiences in protected parks and open spaces, while also promoting conservation, equity, and inclusion within the environmental movement. Launched in 2022, the program was inspired by Valentin Lopez, Chairman of the Amah Mutsun Tribe, who calls upon indigenous and nonindigenous people to heal their relationship with themselves, with each other, and with the Earth. These unique outings, led by local healers and trained docents, allow participants to deepen their connection with the local ecology, engage in environmental action, and build trust and camaraderie within our community and the conservation movement. By making nature accessible to diverse audiences, the Healing in Nature program contributes to a broader support for land conservation and stewardship.

Thank you for your time and consideration.  
Smita Garg, Ed.D.

*Forget not that the earth delights to feel your bare feet and the winds long to play with your hair.*  
*- Khalil Gibran*