

ALAMEDA COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER



*Highland Hospital Campus Fairmont Hospital Campus
John George Psychiatric Pavilion
Ambulatory Health Care Services*

July 31, 2012

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

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

Dear Mr. Doyle,

On behalf of Alameda County Medical Center, I am writing in support of the East Bay Regional Park District's application for a Community Transformation Grant (CTG).

Alameda County Medical Center (ACMC) is the designated public hospital system in Alameda County. ACMC, which is comprised of three hospital campuses and three freestanding Federally Qualified Health Centers throughout Alameda County, is licensed for 475 beds and serves over 94,000 patients. ACMC is a well-known regional trauma center and operates one of the nation's busiest emergency departments with over 90,000 visits annually. We provide 300,000 outpatient visits, 11,000 psych ED visits, 13,649 inpatient admissions, 29,333 in and outpatient surgeries, and 2,246 patients are served by our trauma center. We provide a full continuum of care including health promotion and prevention, primary care, chronic disease management, specialty outpatient services in over 35 medical and surgical specialties, labor and delivery, acute medical and surgical inpatient care, acute rehabilitation, skilled nursing, and acute psychiatric inpatient and emergency services. We also provide translation services in over 35 languages.

Because ACMC is committed to health promotion and prevention, as well as maintaining and improving the health of all county residents, we applaud the East Bay Regional Park District's emphasis on health and outdoor activity. With 112,000 acres of accessible parkland, 1,200 miles of trails and thousands of education, recreation and interpretive programs – the District plays a critical role in both the physical and mental wellness of our region, as well as providing a substantial health and quality of life benefit. The District has been a preventative health care provider in the East Bay for 78 years.

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 called the Get Outdoors! (GO!) Network for Healthy Kids. The purpose of this initiative is 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.

The GO! Network has several goals: a) to promote schools as sites to holistically meet student, family and community needs by training teachers and school district staff in the health related value of outdoor activity and opportunities in regional park related activities, b) 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 and c) shed light on transportation and policy barriers which can literally keep kids from experiencing the outdoors.

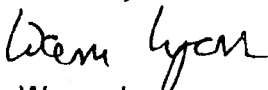
The District and its partners will work with other stakeholders, including the Alameda County Medical Center, to address the above goals. Ultimately, the GO! Network will provide a concrete example of a truly transformative, replicable model to promote outdoor activity, increase communitywide awareness of opportunities to move outside, fund collaborations and reduce park access barriers. Currently, the District's facilities are used by 14 million visitors a year. Expanding the District'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. Furthermore, this initiative aligns with the prevention and primary care focus of health care reform, as well as various hospital system transformation efforts, including our own, that focus on wellness and prevention. For example, APMC has a successful program that focuses on reducing pediatric obesity that involves the entire family by focusing on healthy eating (in the form of veggie boxes), classes on nutrition and food preparation. Promoting outdoor activity is a natural next step for health provider prevention and health promotion efforts.

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 throughout Alameda County will help improve health, reduce health care costs, address chronic diseases before they happen, enhance the quality of life for residents, and provide schools additional resources.

Supporting the GO! Network for Healthy Kids will serve as a model and catalyst for regional wellness and improved health. APMC strongly supports this proposal and urges your favorable consideration.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 510-535-7768 or wlyons@acmedctr.org.

Sincerely,



Warren Lyons
Chief Strategy & Integration Officer