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transportation  
authority

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July 25, 2012

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Executive Director

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

Subject: Support for the EBRPD Community Transformation Grant (CTG) Application

Dear Mr. <sup>Bob</sup> Doyle:

On behalf of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, I write to support the East Bay Regional Park District's application for a Community Transformation Grant (CTG). By providing access to 112,000 acres of parkland, much of it near densely populated communities, the District has enhanced physical and mental wellness and overall quality of life in our region for 78 years. The District's 1,200 miles of trails provide substantial opportunities for physical activity and its 200-plus miles of paved trails serve as a transportation alternative, making it easier for commuters and students to get to mass transit hubs.

The multi-sector collaboration proposed through the Get Outdoors (GO!) for Healthy Kids Network would further strengthen the relationship between health, education and outdoor activity providers. GO! will bring together the West Contra Costa County Unified School District, the Oakland Unified School District, the Alameda County Office of Education, Children's Hospital in Oakland, the U.C. Berkeley Center for Weight and Health, and EcoVillage (a regional nonprofit focusing on sustainable, healthy food and nutrition) to address the CTG strategic directive number two – *Active Living and Healthy Eating* – in the affected communities of Richmond and Oakland, California.

The Authority is especially interested in and supportive of the focus in the GO! Network effort on transportation and policy barriers that can keep kids from experiencing the outdoors and from gaining the critical skills needed to walk and bicycle safely. These skills will be essential towards their becoming adults comfortable with walking and bicycling. The Contra Costa Transportation Authority welcomes the opportunity to work with the District and its partners on transportation-related matters.

By teaching safe walking and bicycling skills, removing obstacles to getting to nearby parklands and providing low-cost, safe outdoor activity opportunities in an urban environment, GO! can enhance the quality of life for residents, address chronic diseases before they happen, help reduce health care costs for employers, and provide schools additional resources and promotional assets – all of which further

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business and worker recruiting efforts for our region.

The District is an ideal organization to carry out the proposed program because it has a long history of collaboration with other public agencies in the East Bay, including schools, health care providers and transportation agencies such as ours. As an independent Special District with an elected Board, the District also works with all 33 cities and towns in the region, as well as with businesses, nonprofits and other government agencies to ensure stakeholders are invested in their success.

The GO! Network for Healthy Kids will serve as a model and catalyst for regional wellness and livability. On behalf of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, I wholeheartedly support this proposal and urge your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,



Randell H. Iwasaki  
Executive Director