



**PLANTING JUSTICE**  
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This is a letter in support of the Team Oakland program.

We have been in partnership with Team Oakland for two summers now. One of the goals of our organization is to develop sustainable and strong community ties and empower communities which are often underserved. Team Oakland has helped us considerably in achieving this goal. By dispatching Team Oakland in our beloved Sobrante Park neighborhood under the supervision of some of our staff, we have been able to keep areas clean of litter and invasive plants pruned back. We have been able to do some basic creek-side cleanup and help in the restoration efforts there.

It's a win-win. Team Oakland also provides youth an opportunity to truly take ownership of their city by helping keep it clean and well maintained. It also gives them an opportunity to experience employment during the summer when they may not have an abundance of things to do. They make money and are trained in soft skills which will help them immensely in their future.

We at Planting Justice look forward to the City of Oakland's continued support of Team Oakland, and collaborations that will continue to strengthen our City in the future.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rahul Patel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rahul Patel  
Permaculture Designer



# Friends of Sausal Creek

PROMOTING WATERSHED AWARENESS

January 2, 2020

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Manager

*Friends of Sausal Creek is a  
501(c)(3) non-profit  
organization*

**Attention:** City of Oakland, City Councilmembers  
**Subject:** Team Oakland Program

Dear Oakland City Councilmembers,

On behalf of Friends of Sausal Creek (FOSC), we want to thank you for supporting the important work of the Team Oakland as directed by the Youth Employment Partnership (YEP).

FOSC has been a partner with Team Oakland since 2016. By way of background, FOSC is a grassroots watershed protection group with the mission to restore, maintain, and protect the Sausal Creek Watershed. Our board and volunteers include watershed residents, experts in native plant restoration and propagation of native plant species, as well as experts in native fish and fauna restoration, urban hydrology, and environmental education. We have been working in the watershed for over 20 years.

**Partnership.** FOSC provides ecological restoration projects for each Team Oakland regional team once a week for four-hours. In 2019, FOSC and Team Oakland partnered for a total of 12 hours each week during the seven-week summer program. Restoration projects included the removal of invasive species, watering native plants, in-the-creek trash removal, benthic macroinvertebrate insect monitoring, pollinator observations, water quality testing, graffiti removal, and light trail maintenance - all within the Sausal Creek Watershed. Restoration projects completed by Team Oakland occurred at various sites including Dimond Park, Dimond Canyon, Jingtown Native Plant Garden – Oakland Estuary, Bridgeview Pollinator Garden, Montclair Golf Course - Cobble Dick Creek, Monterey Redwoods, and Fern Ravine-Joaquin Miller Park.

The restoration projects are led by the FOSC Education and Outreach Coordinator with assistance from the Restoration and Nursery Manager and occasional support from FOSC volunteer Adopt-A-Spot site leaders.

**Opportunity.** Partnering with Team Oakland provides a unique opportunity for FOSC and the youth participants of Team Oakland to impact the unique urban environment. Part of the FOSC mission is to “educate future generations, involve the community in environmental stewardship, and collaborate with agencies and other nonprofits to have a positive impact on the local ecosystem.” Through our partnership with Team Oakland and YEP we have the opportunity to fulfill our mission by educating and training youth environmental stewards. Additionally, local youth are given the opportunity to connect with Oakland’s green spaces and steward the land through projects that extend beyond their usual service of trash pick-up. Through their time with FOSC, Team Oakland members learn about their local watershed system and its ecology, and various environmental stewardship careers.

**Accomplishments.** This partnership helps both organizations meet their outcomes. During the summer of 2019, FOSC, with the help of Team Oakland participants removed 102 bags of invasive species and trash debris from the Sausal Creek Watershed. Together we maintained native plant gardens at seven Adopt-A-Spot sites and put in 74 hours of stewardship service.

Team Oakland youth participants provide essential summer maintenance for newly planted native plant at restoration sites throughout the watershed. To ensure survival

of native plant seedlings outplanted during the prior winter and spring, they must be hand watered several times a week during the dry season. FOSC is a volunteer-based organization with only two paid field staff and is often in need of extra maintenance help throughout the summer. Through the partnership with Team Oakland, FOSC has been able to ensure a high survival rate of native plants each season.

Thank you very much for considering our comments on this important youth environmental stewardship and job training program. Should you have specific questions, please contact Anna Marie Schmidt ([coordinator@sausalcreek.org](mailto:coordinator@sausalcreek.org)).

Sincerely,



Anna Marie Schmidt  
Executive Director



Jeff Stephens  
Board of Directors President

CC: Matthew Barton, Youth Employment Partnership  
Mike Perlmutter, Environmental Stewardship Team Supervisor  
Diedre Martin, Environmental Stewardship Analyst