



August 1, 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:

In light of the East Bay Regional Park District's emphasis on health and outdoor activity, and long history of successful programming, I am writing to convey my support for the East Bay Regional Park District's application for a Community Transformation Grant (CTG).

One of the District's great achievements has been to support the international *Healthy Parks, Healthy People* (HPPH) initiative. Moving forward with this work, the District proposes to lead a multi-sector collaboration: the Get Outdoors! (GO!) Network for Healthy Kids. 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. The collaboration will strengthen relationships between organizations that provide health, education and outdoor activities. Building on the strengths of its contributing members, the GO! Network will directly address the CTG strategic directive number two – *Active Living and Healthy Eating* – in the impacted communities of Oakland and Richmond, California.

The GO! Network has three key components:

- 1) Using a Full Service Community School and District model – where schools serve as sites that holistically meet student, family and community needs – the GO! Network will implement **Parks Prescription** strategies to train teachers and school district staff in the health related value of outdoor activity. Importantly, training will include information on where to take advantage of regional park related activities.
- 2) The GO! Network will work to 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. The District'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 – puts the ideals of COBOR to work in our schools.
- 3) The GO! Network will unearth **transportation and policy barriers** which can literally keep kids from experiencing the outdoors. The District and its partners will work with other stakeholders to address those challenges.

Ultimately, the GO! Network will be a concrete example of a truly **transformative, replicable model** to increase communitywide awareness of outdoor opportunities, promote outdoor activity, and reduce barriers to park access. The Edible Schoolyard Project applauds the work of the East Bay Region Park District. I am strongly supportive of this application and urge your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Alice Waters  
Founder and Director