

April 1, 2021

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
B03 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
United States House of Representatives
115 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515



Dear Senator Feinstein, Senator Padilla, and (Mark DeSaulnier),

I write to express my strong support for the City of San Pablo's San Pablo Area for Recreation and Community (SPARC) project.

The City requests \$2.455 million for the construction of a park in this state identified disadvantaged community. The project will be transforming an unused parcel with dilapidated buildings into a beautiful 4.5-acre community park. This park will include resident-selected amenities, such as a playground with all-abilities equipment, an adult sized soccer field, basketball court, small stage/amphitheater, senior-rated exercise stations, a fitness trail around the perimeter, and a picnic table area. Additionally, the project will include basic amenities, including four (4) gender-neutral bathrooms, 80 parking stalls, and water fountains. All of these amenities will serve families, youth, and seniors residing in this community and provide much needed park space for childhood play and active living for all ages. This park would help the City to address the current lack of park facilities and other community challenges, such as high childhood obesity. These requested funds will ensure our community can enjoy a free, safe public outdoor space, which is especially crucial after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The City of San Pablo is home to over 30,000 residents and cannot currently provide adequate park space, which has led to a myriad of health and social issues such as alarming rates of childhood obesity (the 3rd highest in the state). In addition, the relatively high rates of poverty, both in San Pablo as a whole, and in the immediate community around the SPARC Project area, demonstrate a greater need for, free accessible and safe places for residents to be active and healthy. San Pablo is a small community (2.6 square miles) that scores in the highest 85%-90% range in overall health burden score according CalEnviroScreen 3.0. Without these requested funds, the City will continue to lack safe park space for the community to exercise, enjoy and improve their overall health.

When designing this project, City staff listened to community members as they voiced the desire for a project that would spark joy, recreational opportunities, and pride for the community. Consequently, the project is called the "SPARC Project," because it will provide an inclusive space that sparks joy, pride, opportunities, and play. This project name has the additional benefit of maintaining this acronym when being translated into Spanish, with the goal of making this space socially inclusive to the Spanish-speaking members in the San Pablo community.

I ask that you give the City's request for funding full and fair consideration. These funds would transform the City and I fully support its impact. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Pabon-Alvarado
Mayor

cc: City Council
City Manager
Assistant City Manager
Community Services Director
Public Works Director