



September 11, 2023

East Bay Regional Park District Board
2950 Peralta Oaks Ct
Oakland, CA 94605

Dear East Bay Regional Park District Board:

We, the undersigned, urge you to save the Youth Employment Program (YEP) by keeping it inside the East Bay Regional Park District with the current AFSCME 2428 staff. East Bay Park experts are the ones who should continue to lead this successful job training program for at-risk youth in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Over the last 10 years, union park staff have trained more than 100 at-risk youth. Young adults from park communities have worked nearly 12,000 hours planting native species, clearing fire hazards, and building trails.

Youth crew member recruitment and wages are already paid for. The only cost to the Park District is the YEP Supervisor's time.

You can keep YEP thriving by keeping it inside the East Bay Regional Park District. Retaining the YEP Supervisor at the East Bay Regional Park District will ensure that youth crews get park expert-led job training and mentorship. This exposure to careers in parks, recreation, and environmental education has been life-changing for East Bay youth, and increased the quality of our parks.

Please do everything you can to save, not outsource, the successful Youth Employment Program at East Bay Regional Parks.

Meadow D'Arcy
Chief Steward
AFSCME Local 2428

Joe Summers
Campaign Director
Contra Costa Labor Council, AFL-CIO

David Weaver
Director
Cesar Chavez Environmental Corps

Keith D. Brown
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Nancy Sidebotham Tax Preparer

Giovanna Capone, Director & Filmmaker
Capone Productions

LI D, Teacher/educator
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