

**Berkeley Partners for Parks ♦ EcoCity Builders ♦ Berkeley Path Wanderers Association
♦ California Urban Creeks Council ♦ Friends of Strawberry Creek ♦ Berkeley
Community Gardening Collaborative ♦ BOSS Urban Gardening Institute ♦ Berkeley
EcoHouse ♦ Hopper Commons Association ♦ Bay Area Sustainable Transportation
Education Project ♦ Ohlone Greenway Project**

December 17, 2001

Berkeley City Council
City of Berkeley
2180 Milvia
Berkeley, CA 94704

RE Appropriation of \$1 million HIP Grant for Santa Fe Right of Way

Dear Members of the City Council:

It has come to our attention that there are two 'once in a lifetime' opportunities that the City of Berkeley should act on regarding the most significant undeveloped open space remaining in Berkeley. We are referring to the Santa Fe Right of Way. These unique opportunities are to 1) develop a path from Strawberry Creek Park to University Avenue through the new Montessori School property and 2) to link it to the Ohlone Greenway at Lincoln Street via a multi-use greenway by allocating funding from the Housing Incentive Program (HIP) that is intended for transportation-transit related capital improvements. The City of Berkeley has owned the Santa Fe Right-of-Way (ROW) since 1979, and it was dedicated to open space in perpetuity through actions of the Planning Commission and subsequent voter confirmation (through passage of Measure L in 1986). However, the majority of the Santa Fe ROW remains, as it was in 1979, empty, abandoned lots alternately fenced off, or used as parking. After more than 20 years, the promise and purpose of this area can be realized, if you act on the following recommendations.

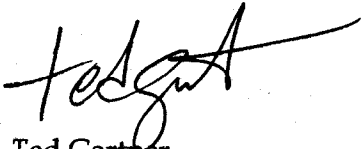
We, the Undersigned Groups, endorse Berkeley Montessori School's proposal to incorporate a public trail between University Avenue and Strawberry Creek Park within the old Santa Fe ROW within their property.

We also urge the City Council to appropriate the \$1 million HIP Grant for the planning and implementation of a Santa Fe ROW greenway from Strawberry Creek Park to the Ohlone Greenway (at Lincoln Street) and to begin this by initiating a dialogue with Montessori to obtain an easement that benefits both the school and the public.

These actions would be in accordance with and serve to carry out the City Of Berkeley General Plan Policy OS-6 (from *Final Draft*) and the goals of the University Avenue Plan.

We further urge the Council to seek additional funding, as needed, through private, state and federal sources, in order to complete this project. Finally, we request that the Council establish partnerships with our groups and/or others to facilitate accomplishing this important civic undertaking in a timely manner.

Yours truly,



Ted Gartner,
Berkeley Partners for Parks



Anne Eastland
Hopper Commons Assoc.



Beebo Turman,
Berkeley Community Gardening Collaborative



Daniel Miller
BOSS Urban Gardening Institute



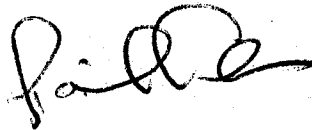
Richard Register
EcoCity Builders



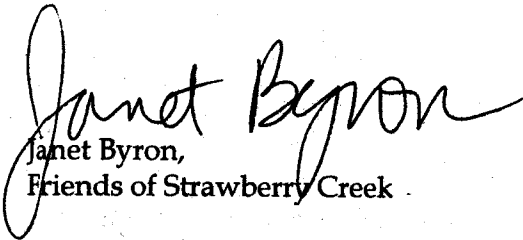
Karl Linn
Berkeley EcoHouse



Jacque Ensign
Berkeley Path Wanderers Association



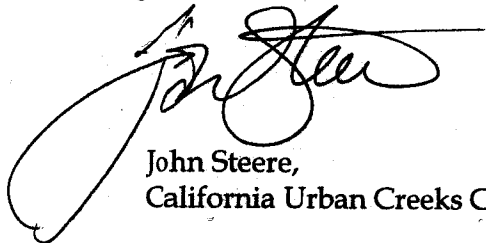
Dave Cohen
Bay Area Sustainable Transportation
Education Project



Janet Byron,
Friends of Strawberry Creek



Jack Appleyard
Ohlone Greenway Project



John Steere,
California Urban Creeks Council