



**Board of Directors**

**Officers**

Jodi Starbird  
*President*  
Marguerite Lee  
*Vice President*  
Erica Carr  
*Secretary*  
Terry Austen  
*Treasurer*

December 17, 2020

Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District  
888 N. First Street, Suite 204  
San Jose CA 95112

**RE: Letter of Recommendation for Melissa Sarmiento – GCRCD Associate Director**

Celeste Angelich  
Mark Baginski  
Lisa Bankosh  
Sheryl Ehman  
Jared Gamelin  
Helen Han  
Dan Kennedy  
Natasha Marwah  
Charles McCarroll  
Allie Ottoboni  
Brandon Racine  
Carl Salas  
Katia Terentyeva  
Carrick Young

Dear Selections Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm to recommend Melissa Sarmiento for the Associate Director opportunity with the Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District. She will be a fantastic leader and thought partner to help inform and guide the mission and great work of GCRCD.

Ms. Sarmiento and I are colleagues at the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy, where she serves as our Education Programs Manager, leading our environmental education programs and community outreach efforts for four years. Every (regular) year, she leads programs and teams that deliver outdoor environmental education programs to over 6,000 youth, a majority from Title I schools, in addition to programs for homeschool and groups with special needs.

**Council of Advisors**

Brian Adams  
Jim Alves  
Gloria Duffy  
Jerry Estruth  
Dave Finn  
Susan Fitts  
Vic Giacalone  
Desiree La Maggiore  
Jeff Lawson  
David Pandori  
Doug McLendon  
Kathy Muller  
Bob Rhodes  
Dave Sandretto  
Jim Towery  
Ken Yeager

Joining the organization 18 months ago as Executive Director, I was immediately impressed by her intelligence, leadership, thoughtfulness, passion, and dedication in a diverse breadth of community priorities: environmental science education, ecology and hydrology, racial equity and environmental justice, habitat restoration, community engagement, and program development. Very rarely do I meet someone so knowledgeable and passionate in such diverse topic areas, and I often seek her expertise and counsel.

In addition to her professional qualifications, Ms. Sarmiento's adaptability and overall enthusiasm for her work and passions was pivotal in maintaining the programs and morale of our organization through challenges brought about from the COVID-19 pandemic.

She is an invaluable advisor, team member, and leader within the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy and I confidently recommend her for the Associate Director opportunity with the Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District.

**Executive Director**

Jason Su

Please feel free to contact me at [jason@grpg.org](mailto:jason@grpg.org) or any additional comments or questions.

Regards,

Jason Su  
Executive Director



438 Coleman Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95110  
408-298-7657  
[guadalupeconservancy.org](http://guadalupeconservancy.org)  
EIN: 77-0166797