September 2, 2019

Honorable Erin Hannigan, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors
675 Texas Street
Fairfield, CA 94533

Dear Chair Hannigan:

This letter requests that the Board of Supervisors initiate a process to place a measure on the March 2020 ballot for Solano County voters to approve formation of a countywide park and open space district (District), as authorized by Senate Bill 365. The Willis Linn Jepson Chapter of the California Native Plant Society represents members of the Society residing in Solano County. Formation of the countywide parks and open space district would be a significant step in preserving native plants and native plant habitats in Solano County.

We understand that the Solano County Park and Recreation Commission received a report on April 12, 2018 from County staff describing their work on an administration and finance plan for the District. County staff reported to the Commission on July 11, 2019 that work is still underway to complete the final draft of this plan.

A crucial next step will be releasing the final draft of the administration and finance plan for review and comment. It will be difficult for a ballot measure on the District to succeed without support from the cities and affected agencies. It is unlikely such support can be obtained unless these stakeholders are provided an opportunity to review and comment on the administration and finance plan. This opportunity should be provided through a public process that allows interested members of the public to participate as well.

The Board of Supervisors should establish a timeline for putting the measure for the District on the March 2020 countywide ballot. This timeline would include a date for the release of the final draft administration and finance plan, a public process for review of this plan and endorsement by the cities and affected agencies, a date to release a resolution to place a measure on the ballot to form the District, and date for a public hearing to adopt the resolution.

We are grateful to the Board for providing the resources to work on formation of a countywide park and open space district. We look forward to your leadership to bring about a successful vote next March.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Goetz, President
Board of Directors
Willis Linn Jepson Chapter
California Native Plant Society