



**SIERRA CLUB**  
DELTA-SIERRA GROUP  
MOTHER LODE CHAPTER

*Delta-Sierra Group  
Mother Lode Chapter  
P.O. Box 9258  
Stockton CA 95208*

Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation  
Healthy Soils Program  
Via [ktempleton@puentesca.org](mailto:ktempleton@puentesca.org)

April 21, 2020

Re: Letter of Support for Puentes Application in San Joaquin County

On behalf of the Delta-Sierra Group of the Sierra Club, we are writing in support of the Promotores Unidas para la Educacion Tecnologias Sostinables' (PUENTES) the California Department of Food and Agriculture Healthy Soils Demonstration Program grant application. Healthy soils not only mitigate GHG emissions and increase soil health but have been shown to decrease flood risks and increase aquifer recharge. San Joaquin County has an active flood reduction program which can benefit with low tech improvements that can be readily implement and a critically overdrafted groundwater basin that could benefit from a local demonstration program.

PUENTES is a Stockton, California based 501(c)3 nonprofit that fights food deserts, advocates for food education, and encourages the sustainable development of communities by cultivating a connection between people and their food. The organization provides our underprivileged community with access to naturally grown produce, fosters economic growth by incubating local businesses, boosts local urban forestry efforts, and maintains a fully functioning apiary among other projects.

Over the last few years, PUENTES has been awarded grants from California ReLeaf and CAL FIRE that serve as educational elements in the community with respect to air quality and tree care. Combined, these grants support planting up to 1500 trees locally. PUENTES also participated in the TCC planning grant by assisting with tree care workshops and facilitating a sample tree inventory in the three focus areas within our community.

The Delta-Sierra Group has worked with PUENTES during the facilitation of the of their urban forestry project. PUENTES provided high quality work and helped to support other organizations and individuals with their expertise. The project was completed in a timely manner and within budget fulfilling all objectives and goals. Some of the best environmental outreach to the area around Boggs Tract farm and local schools has been facilitated by PUENTES.

For these reasons, we support the PUENTES application and request that PUENTES be awarded grant funding so that connections with community partners and implementation of program goals be expanded to demonstrate that healthy soils have many benefits. Thank you for your efforts to improve soils in California, and within San Joaquin County.

Sincerely,

Mary Elizabeth M.S., R.E.H.S.  
Delta Sierra Group Conservation Chair  
Sierra Club