

Browns Valley Family Club Application for the Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission Grant

DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

The Browns Valley Family Club is at 501(c)(3) non-profit (23-7133974) that:

- Provides resources for activities that: enrich our children globally, culturally and artistically.
- Promote academic growth and achievement.
- Celebrate learning for all students.

This organization was established as a non profit on 6/16/2022.

Our board consists of:

President: Brook Youdell (707) 227-6531, bvfamilyclub@gmail.com

Vice President: Brooke Hannaford

Treasurer: Libby Wade & Scott Haberle

Communication Secretary: Krista Gavira

Recording Secretary: Bonnie Mather

Ways & Means: Sabina Correa

Special Projects: Michelle McCarroll

Historian: Angela Berlogar

Parliamentarian: Brook Hannaford

BV Family Club Contact for Grant: Danielle D'Amour, STEAM teacher, 707.637.6240, danielle@kamalifeayurveda.com. Mail to: 1127 Larkin Way, Napa, CA 94558.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT/PROBLEM STATEMENT

Browns Valley Elementary School contains approximately 5,000 square feet of highly degraded landscape formerly dominated by the invasive Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*). This area currently provides little ecological value for native wildlife. Through restoration with nearly 400 California native plants, this project will convert the site into a functioning habitat that supports monarch butterflies, native bees, beneficial insects, birds, and other wildlife while simultaneously serving as an outdoor classroom for more than 600 students annually (see Attachment A).

While the primary objective of this project is wildlife habitat restoration, the restored landscape will simultaneously address an important educational need. Browns Valley students currently score below the California average in science proficiency (22% compared to the approximately 33% statewide). By providing a permanent outdoor learning environment aligned with the Next Generation State Standards, students will engage in authentic scientific investigations while observing real ecological processes rather than learning solely through textbooks. Approximately 620 TK-8 students annually will utilize the garden through bimonthly STEAM instruction and classroom science lessons.

Commission funding will leverage significant in-kind contributions from project partners, including professional restoration planning by Napa RCD, native plant donations from Monarch Joint Venture, volunteer maintenance by California Native Plant Society members, donated compost and mulch from Napa Recycling, and hundreds of volunteer hours contributed by families and students.

The work is estimated to require \$19,344.72 to complete.

These funds will contribute to the relationships and progress we have already established this past school year. The project began as the brainchild of the Napa RCD, the Monarch Joint Venture and the Browns Valley Family Club. The Napa RCD has already invested over 30 hours of their time and resources in preparing the site, creating a site-specific planting and maintenance plan and labor. In addition, the Monarch Joint Venture has also dedicated 8 hours of their time and expertise to make sure that our site creates connected habitat for Monarch Butterflies, CA native bees, predatory insects, spiders, birds and other wildlife. MJV will also provide the nearly 400 plants for the project (see Attachment B).

With the collaboration of the Napa RCD, MJV, over 1,000 volunteer hours contributed by parents, students, teacher and community partners, a small grant from the Philanthropic Ventures Foundation, and donations of mulch and compost from Napa Recycling, we were able to manually remove the Bermuda grass, covered the entire area with sheet mulch and delineated walkways and planting zones (see Attachment C). This progress is promising but we are looking to use the funds from this grant to install the irrigation system, the plants, shade sails and educational and interpretive signage (see Attachment D). The plants and irrigation are planned to be installed in the Fall of 2026. The signage and shed installation are planned to be completed by December 2026. The educational curriculum will begin with the installation of the plants.

The two outcomes of this project align with two of the approved expenditure items in the Fish and Wildlife Code §13103:

a) Public education relating to the scientific principles of fish and wildlife conservation, consisting of supervised formal instruction carried out pursuant to a planned curriculum and aids to education such as literature, audio and video recordings, training models, and nature study facilities.

(e) Improvement of fish and wildlife habitat, including, but not limited to, construction of fish screens, weirs, and ladders; drainage or other watershed improvements; gravel and rock removal or placement; construction of irrigation and water distribution systems; earthwork and grading; fencing; planting trees and other vegetation management; and removal of barriers to the migration of fish and wildlife.

Teachers will utilize the site for place-based learning, allowing students to construct evidence-based explanations regarding ecosystem dynamics and protection. The garden will serve as a living laboratory where students gather empirical field data to fulfill the NGSS concepts. A few examples of how the garden can meet those standards include but are not limited to:

Elementary School (Grades K–5)

- **Kindergarten (K-ESS3-1 - Earth and Human Activity):** Students look at the relationship between what plants need and where they live.
 - *Garden Link:* Tracking which insects visit specific native plants to learn how animals and plants depend on each other to survive.
- **2nd Grade (2-LS2-2 - Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics):** This standard directly requires students to study how animals disperse seeds or pollinate plants.
 - *Garden Link:* Students use the pollinator garden to observe, map, and graph the different types of pollinators (bees, butterflies, beetles) interacting with flowers.

- **4th Grade (4-LS1-1 - From Molecules to Organisms):** Focuses on how internal and external structures support survival, growth, and reproduction.
 - *Garden Link:* Comparing the different shapes of native flowers (tubular vs. flat) and matching them to the specialized mouthparts of specific pollinators (hummingbird beaks vs. bee tongues).

Middle School (Grades 6–8)

- **MS-LS2-1 (Ecosystems: Resources and Populations):** Analyzing data to provide evidence for the effects of resource availability on organisms and populations.
 - *Garden Link:* Measuring insect population density and biodiversity within the native garden versus a nearby turf-grass lawn or non-native landscaping.
- **MS-LS2-4 (Ecosystems: Dynamic Changes):** Constructing an argument for how physical or biological changes to an ecosystem affect populations.
 - *Garden Link:* Evaluating how the garden acts as a protective buffer zone, filtering runoff before it hits the adjacent properties and ecosystems.

MEASUREMENT OF SUCCESS

Success will be measured through assessing plant survival using the schedule of monitoring and maintenance as follows:

Plant establishment will be assessed one season after planting, and annually for at least three years. Percent survival and irrigation schedule will be noted. Photo monitoring will occur right after planting and then annually for at least three years. Photos will be taken by BV Family Club staff from the same photo point location. This will help show growth and maintenance over the years. BV staff will keep these photos on file and share them if requested.

To ensure the success of the project, the Napa RCD has committed to providing technical expertise for the next 10 years. MJV remains dedicated to the survival of the project. The CA Native Plant Society has also committed to maintaining the garden by watering sheet mulch and keeping the area free of weeds. The BV Family Club has built a solid volunteer group of parents to help maintain the garden as well as a workforce of 600+ students and teachers. This is truly a community effort with a common goal (see Attachment E). Success will be evident by the participation of our student body in maintaining the garden as well as the teacher implementation of the NGSS aligned outdoor lessons.

MAINTENANCE PLAN

Weeding: Weeds will be manually controlled every month for the entirety of the project (10 yrs).

Irrigation Schedule:

Irrigation will begin after planting if the soil is dry and will be on an infrequent but deep watering schedule to establish deep root growth. Soil, exposure, plant types, climate, and topography will factor in.

1st month of watering: In the first month of watering- we will deeply water once/ week. The exact amount of water depends on soil, climate, and plants but a very general starting point will be between 2-3 gallons per week. We will then observe the plants to tailor the amount. If there is a

prolonged heat wave in the summer, we will assess plant health and determine if additional water is needed.

Month 2 to year 1 of watering: We will water deeply every other week during the dry season to encourage deep root growth. We will make sure the soil is wet to at least 18 inches deep and observe the plants to tailor the amount. If there is a prolonged heat wave in the summer, we will assess plant health and determine if additional water is needed.

Year 2 of watering: Water deeply about every two weeks in the dry season.

Year 3 of watering: Water deeply about every 3-4 weeks in the dry season.

After about 3 years: Plants should be established, and irrigation can be turned off, assuming there is no drought. If we enter drought conditions or extreme heat, we will give an occasional deep watering as plants will have better survival and stress response if occasional water can still be provided once established.

Irrigation lines will be continually checked for blockages or leaks during the weeding schedule

Mulch will be replaced as needed until the plants are big enough to outcompete weeds.

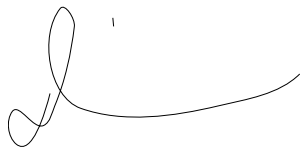
PROJECT SUMMARY

This project represents an investment that will continue yielding ecological and educational benefits long after the grant period ends. Unlike one-time educational programming, this project establishes permanent wildlife habitat and a long-term outdoor classroom expected to benefit both wildlife and students for decades. Each year, hundreds of students will become active participants in habitat restoration, scientific inquiry, and stewardship while simultaneously improving habitat for Napa County's native wildlife. This is something that will leave an indelible mark on our students and foster the development of future Ecologists, Biologists and Conservationists.

The Browns Valley Family Club respectfully requests the Commission's support in transforming an underutilized landscape into a permanent community asset for both people and wildlife.

Thank you for your consideration of our BV Family Club for the Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission Grant.

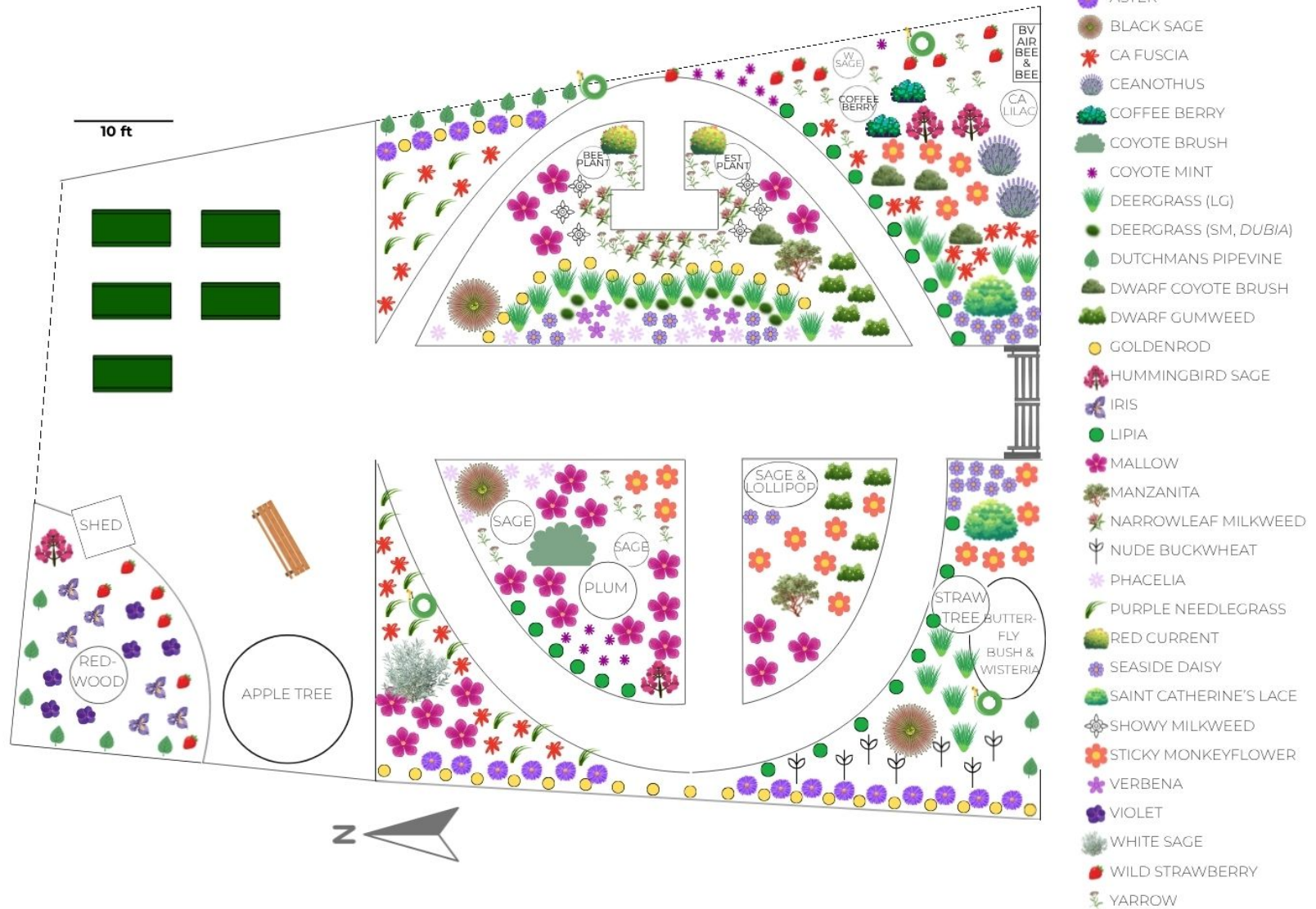
With Gratitude,



Danielle D'Amour
STEM Instructor at Browns Valley School
danielle@kamalifeayurveda.com
707.637.6240

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A. Project Landscape Plan



Attachment B. Plant List

Common name	Botanical name	Total # in Order
Hummingbird sage	Salvia spathacea	4
Ceanothus	Ceanothus 'concha'	2
Coffeeberry	Frangula californica 'eve case'	2
Coyote mint	Monardella villosa	13
Yarrow	Achillea millefolium	13
Moonshine yarrow	Achillea 'moonshine'	13
CA fuchsia	Epilobium canum	26
Wild strawberry	Fragaria vesca	14
St. Catherines lace	Eriogonum giganteum	1
Monkey flower	Diplacus auranticus	19
Seaside daisy	Erigeron glaucus	27
Dwarf coyote brush	Bacharis pilularis 'pigeon point'	6
Lipia	Phyla nodiflora	24
Deergrass dubia	Muhlenbergia 'dubia'	19
Nude buckwheat	Eriogonum nudum	7
Black sage	Salvia mellifera	3
Golden rod	Solidago californica	38
Pacific aster	Symphyotrichum chilense	20
Duchmans pipe	Aristolochia californica	13
Purple needlegrass	Stipa pulchra	16
White sage	Salvia apiana	1
Mallow	Sidalcea malviflora	23
Phacelia	Phacelia californica	18
Narrowleaf milkweed	Asclepias fascicularis	12
Showy milkweed	Asclepias speciosa	6
Gumweed	Grindelia camporum	10
Verbena	Verbena lilacina 'de la mina'	8
Red flowering currant	Ribes sanguineum	2
Manzanita	Arctostaphylos 'Howard McMinn'	2
Deergrass rigens	Muhlenbergia rigens	12
Coyote brush	Bacharis pilularis	1
Dog violet	Viola adunca	6
Douglas iris	Iris douglasiana	6
Yampah	Perideridia kelloggii	9
GRAND TOTAL		396

Attachment C. Project Progress Photos



Photo 1. Before photo - Bermuda Grass Infestation



Photo 2. Sheet Mulching



Photo 3: Bermuda grass eradicated, rocked pathways and planting areas.

Attachment D. Project Budget

PLANT AND IRRIGATION MATERIALS:

Plant delivery= \$250

Holding/ outsourcing fee: \$950

Drip line: (\$38.75/ 500 ft roll) need at least 10 rolls: \$387.50

Emitters ½ g/h pressure comp: \$0.25 each, need 2 per plant and extras in case, prob 500= \$125

Spaghetti Tubing: \$16 each, need at least 13: \$208

Clips: 1,000 (\$0.09 each)= \$90

Joints, tees, misc small parts: Est \$100

Timers: \$400

Pressure regulators: \$80 each?= \$160

TOTAL IRRIGATION MATERIALS: \$2,670.50

IRRIGATION AND PLANTING LABOR

1 foreman @ \$75/hr and 2 laborers @ \$60/hr for 40 hrs (\$75+\$120)40hrs=\$7,800

TOTAL LABOR = \$7,800

2 Shade Sales

Sails: <https://a.co/d/0aPw1Gst> 2 @ \$198.99 = \$397.98

Posts: <https://a.co/d/0h4EX3FM> 8 @ 195.99 = \$1,567.92

Labor: \$2,000

TOTAL SHADE SAILS: \$3,965.90

SIGNAGE

Educational and Interpretage Signage

18"x24" aluminum educational signs with posts: 4 @ \$350.00 each = \$1,400.00

Plant Species Identification Tags: 34 @\$10 each = \$340

TOTAL SIGNAGE = \$1,740.00

SEATING

3 picnic tables

<https://outdoorschoolfurniture.com/product/y-base-expanded-metal-ada-picnic-table/>

3@ \$1,031.11, Liftgate fee: \$75

TOTAL SEATING = \$3168.32

TOTAL COSTS

\$2,670.50 - irrigation materials

\$7,800.00 - irrigation labor

\$3,965.90 - shade sails

\$1,740.00 - signage

\$3,168.32 - seating

TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST: \$19,344.72

Attachment E. Letters of Support

July 8, 2026

Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission Grant



Re: Letter of Support for Browns Valley Elementary School Native Pollinator Garden

Dear Review Committee,

The Napa County Resource Conservation District (Napa RCD) is proud to provide our enthusiastic support for Browns Valley School's (BVS) application to the Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission Grant. We have been working closely with teacher Danielle D'Amour and the school community to transform an underutilized neglected lot on campus into a thriving native pollinator garden that will serve as both critical wildlife habitat and an inspiring outdoor learning space.

This project embodies the intentions of the Wildlife Conservation Commission Grant by transforming a neglected space into a healthy wildlife habitat and vibrant community asset that fosters stewardship, connection, and education. The garden will provide students with meaningful opportunities to engage with nature, participate in hands-on restoration activities, and develop a lifelong appreciation for California's native ecosystems.

The planting plan and design features more than 30 species of California native drought tolerant plants selected to provide continuous blooms throughout the year. The garden is specifically designed to provide habitat for monarch butterflies and other beneficial insects. Importantly, BVS is located within a priority breeding area for western monarch butterflies, making this project particularly valuable to ongoing monarch recovery efforts. By incorporating monarch host plants and season-long nectar resources, the garden will contribute to regional conservation goals while providing students with opportunities to observe and learn about one of California's most iconic species.

Beyond its ecological benefits, this garden will serve as a living demonstration site for students, families, and the broader Napa community. It will showcase what is possible when schools invest in native landscaping that supports biodiversity, conserves water, and creates beautiful spaces for learning and connection. Students will not only benefit from the garden's educational opportunities but will also develop a sense of ownership and pride through their participation in planting and stewardship activities.

Napa RCD is committed to supporting this project through technical expertise, habitat restoration guidance, and continued partnership with BVS. We are confident that this garden will become a lasting resource for wildlife that cultivates compassion, environmental stewardship, and community pride for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration of this worthy project. We strongly encourage you to support BVS's application for the Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission Grant.

Sincerely,

Ruby Stahel

Senior Restoration Project Manager

Napa County Resource Conservation District

ruby@naparcd.org - 530-304-9254



2233 University Ave W, Suite 426
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55114
monarchjointventure.org
(651) 222-7631
monarchs@monarchjointventure.org

July 9, 2026

Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission Grant

Re: Letter of Support for Browns Valley Elementary School Native Pollinator Garden and Learning Space

Dear Napa County Conservation Commission Grant Review Committee,

The Monarch Joint Venture (MJV) is pleased to support Browns Valley School's (BVS) application for funding through the Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Through our *Monarchs & More Western Habitat Program*, MJV has partnered with BVS and the Napa County Resource Conservation District (RCD) to help transform an approximately 5,000-square-foot area of the campus into a thriving California native pollinator habitat. As part of this partnership, MJV is providing technical expertise and nearly 400 California native plants to establish a resilient landscape that will benefit monarch butterflies, native bees and other native pollinators.

This project exemplifies that type of collaborative conservation effort that creates lasting ecological impact. By replacing invasive Bermuda grass with diverse native vegetation, the garden will provide critical nectar resources, host plants, shelter and breeding habitat while increasing biodiversity within an urban landscape. Native pollinator habitats such as this are essential to reversing habitat loss and creating connected landscapes that support wildlife throughout Napa County.

Equally important, this habitat restoration project will serve as a permanent outdoor learning laboratory for nearly 700 students each year. Through standards-aligned, hands-on investigations of pollinator and ecosystem dynamics, students will develop scientific understanding while building a lifelong ethic of conservation and stewardship.

As Baba Dioum famously said, *"In the end, we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught."*

The project's success is strengthened by the collaboration among BVS, the Browns Valley School Family Club, Napa RCD, California Native Plant Society, community volunteers and the MJV, ensuring habitat will be maintained and continue to benefit wildlife and students for years to come.

We respectfully urge the Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission to support this outstanding project. Your investment will not only restore valuable wildlife habitat but will also inspire future generations of conservationists while creating a lasting community resource that advances wildlife conservation, environmental education and stewardship throughout Napa County.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Erin Arnsteen

Western Program Coordinator - Monarch Joint Venture

erin@monarchjointventure.org | Ph: (707) 307-0907



1001 Buhman Avenue, Napa, CA 94558
707-253-3761 (Fax) 707-259-8421

June 27, 2026

Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission Grant

Re: Letter of Support for the Brown's Valley Pollinator Habitat and Outdoor Learning Garden

Dear Review Committee,

As Principal of Browns Valley School, I am pleased to offer my strongest support for the Browns Valley Family Club's application for funding to complete our Native Pollinator Habitat and Outdoor Learning Garden.

This project represents a unique opportunity to transform an underutilized section of our campus into a thriving native habitat that benefits both wildlife and our students. Through the restoration of approximately 5,000 square feet of land with California native plants, the project will create valuable habitat for wildlife while providing an outdoor classroom for our entire student body.

Browns Valley School serves more than 600 students, all of whom will have access to this space through classroom instruction and our school's STEAM program. The garden will provide authentic opportunities for students to investigate ecosystems, biodiversity, pollination, plant adaptations, conservation biology, and environmental stewardship through hands-on experiences that align directly with California's Next Generation Science Standards.

This project will become a permanent educational resource for our school. Teachers across multiple grade levels will utilize the garden year after year to support science instruction while fostering environmental literacy and stewardship among our students.

We are especially grateful for the collaboration among the Browns Valley Family Club, Napa Resource Conservation District, Monarch Joint Venture, California Native Plant Society, and our dedicated parent volunteers. This partnership demonstrates our shared commitment to restoring wildlife habitat while inspiring the next generation of conservationists.

Browns Valley Elementary is fully committed to supporting the long-term success of this project. We believe this restoration effort will provide lasting ecological, educational, and community benefits for many years to come.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Troy Holding'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Principal, Browns Valley School



1001 Buhman Avenue, Napa, CA 94558
707-253-3761 (Fax) 707-259-8421

Dear Review Committee,

As a first grade teacher at Browns Valley School, I am pleased to offer my strongest support for the Browns Valley Family Club's application for funding to complete our Native Pollinator Habitat and Outdoor Learning Garden.

This project represents a unique opportunity to transform an underutilized section of our campus into a thriving native habitat that benefits both wildlife and our students. Through the restoration of approximately 5,000 square feet of land with California native plants, the project will create valuable habitat for wildlife while providing an outdoor classroom for our entire student body.

Browns Valley School serves close to 700 students, all of whom will have access to this space through classroom instruction and our school's STEAM program. The garden will provide authentic opportunities for students to investigate ecosystems, biodiversity, pollination, plant adaptations, conservation biology, and environmental stewardship through hands-on experiences that align directly with California's Next Generation Science Standards.

This project will become a permanent educational resource for our school. Teachers across multiple grade levels will utilize the garden year after year to support science instruction while fostering environmental literacy and stewardship among our students.

We are especially grateful for the collaboration among the Browns Valley Family Club, Napa Resource Conservation District, Monarch Joint Venture, California Native Plant Society, and our dedicated parent volunteers. This partnership demonstrates our shared commitment to restoring wildlife habitat while inspiring the next generation of conservationists.

Browns Valley Elementary is fully committed to supporting the long-term success of this project. We believe this restoration effort will provide lasting ecological, educational, and community benefits for many years to come.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'RJMorales'.

First Grade Teacher, Browns Valley School



1001 Buhman Avenue, Napa, CA 94558
707-253-3761 (Fax) 707-259-8421

June 29, 2026

Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission Grant

Re: Letter of Support for the Browns Valley Pollinator Habitat and Outdoor Learning Garden

Dear Review Committee,

As a second grade teacher at Browns Valley School, I am pleased to offer my strongest support for the Browns Valley Family Club's application for funding to complete our Native Pollinator Habitat and Outdoor Learning Garden.

This project represents a unique opportunity to transform an underutilized section of our campus into a thriving native habitat that benefits both wildlife and our students. Through the restoration of approximately 5,000 square feet of land with California native plants, the project will create valuable habitat for wildlife while providing an outdoor classroom for our entire student body.

Browns Valley School serves more than 600 students, all of whom will have access to this space through classroom instruction and our school's STEAM program. The garden will provide authentic opportunities for students to investigate ecosystems, biodiversity, pollination, plant adaptations, conservation biology, and environmental stewardship through hands-on experiences that align directly with California's Next Generation Science Standards.

This project will become a permanent educational resource for our school. Teachers across multiple grade levels will utilize the garden year after year to support science instruction while fostering environmental literacy and stewardship among our students.

We are especially grateful for the collaboration among the Browns Valley Family Club, Napa Resource Conservation District, Monarch Joint Venture, California Native Plant Society, and our dedicated parent volunteers. This partnership demonstrates our shared commitment to restoring wildlife habitat while inspiring the next generation of conservationists.

Browns Valley Elementary is fully committed to supporting the long-term success of this project. We believe this restoration effort will provide lasting ecological, educational, and community benefits for many years to come.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Cavita Malicki

Second Grade Teacher, Browns Valley School



1001 Buhman Avenue, Napa, CA 94558
707-253-3761 (Fax) 707-259-8421

June 29, 2026

Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission Grant

Re: Letter of Support for the Browns Valley Pollinator Habitat and Outdoor Learning Garden

Dear Review Committee,

As a 7th grade teacher at Browns Valley School, I am pleased to offer my strongest support for the Browns Valley Family Club's application for funding to complete our Native Pollinator Habitat and Outdoor Learning Garden.

This project represents a unique opportunity to transform an underutilized section of our campus into a thriving native habitat that benefits both wildlife and our students. Through the restoration of approximately 5,000 square feet of land with California native plants, the project will create valuable habitat for wildlife while providing an outdoor classroom for our entire student body.

Browns Valley School serves more than 600 students, all of whom will have access to this space through classroom instruction and our school's STEAM program. The garden will provide authentic opportunities for students to investigate ecosystems, biodiversity, pollination, plant adaptations, conservation biology, and environmental stewardship through hands-on experiences that align directly with California's Next Generation Science Standards.

This project will become a permanent educational resource for our school. Teachers across multiple grade levels will utilize the garden year after year to support science instruction while fostering environmental literacy and stewardship among our students.

We are especially grateful for the collaboration among the Browns Valley Family Club, Napa Resource Conservation District, Monarch Joint Venture, California Native Plant Society, and our dedicated parent volunteers. This partnership demonstrates our shared commitment to restoring wildlife habitat while inspiring the next generation of conservationists.

Browns Valley School is fully committed to supporting the long-term success of this project. We believe this restoration effort will provide lasting ecological, educational, and community benefits for many years to come.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Joy M. Andrus Ortiz

7th Grade Teacher

Browns Valley School



1001 Buhman Avenue, Napa, CA 94558
707-253-3761 (Fax) 707-259-8421

Dear Review Committee,

As a Kindergarten teacher at Browns Valley School, I am pleased to offer my strongest support to our STEAM teacher's application for funding to complete our Outdoor Learning Garden on our upper campus. In order to continue the growth of our garden a few things are still needed. The application would fund new picnic tables, irrigation supplies and labor as well as continued maintenance, storage and educational signage.

This project represents a unique opportunity to continue the amazing transformation of what was once an underutilized section of our campus into a thriving native habitat that benefits both wildlife and our students. Through the restoration of approximately 5,000 square feet of land with California native plants, the project has created valuable habitat for wildlife while providing an outdoor classroom for our entire student body.

Browns Valley School serves more than 600 students, all of whom will have access to this space through classroom instruction and our school's STEAM program. The garden now provides authentic opportunities for students to investigate ecosystems, biodiversity, pollination, plant adaptations, conservation biology, and environmental stewardship through hands-on experiences that align directly with California's Next Generation Science Standards.

This project is now a permanent educational resource for our school. Teachers across multiple grade levels will utilize the garden year after year to support science instruction while fostering environmental literacy and stewardship among our students. Danielle D'Amour, our STEAM teacher, has put in countless hours and funds from her own pocket to help see this project through to the amazing place that it is now.

We are especially grateful for the collaboration among the Browns Valley Family Club, Napa Resource Conservation District, Monarch Joint Venture, California Native Plant Society, and our dedicated parent volunteers. This partnership demonstrates our shared commitment to restoring wildlife habitat while inspiring the next generation of conservationists, which I know is something near and dear to the heart of Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission. Browns Valley Elementary is fully committed to supporting the long-term success of this project. We believe this restoration effort will provide lasting ecological, educational, and community benefits for many years to come.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Brandy Briggs

Kindergarten Teacher

Browns Valley School



1001 Buhman Avenue, Napa, CA 94558
707-253-3761 (Fax) 707-259-8421

July 6, 2026

Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission Grant

Re: Letter of Support for the Browns Valley Pollinator Habitat and Outdoor Learning Garden

Dear Review Committee,

As a kindergarten grade teacher at Browns Valley School, I am pleased to offer my strongest support for the Browns Valley Family Club's application for funding to complete our Native Pollinator Habitat and Outdoor Learning Garden.

This project represents a unique opportunity to transform an underutilized section of our campus into a thriving native habitat that benefits both wildlife and our students. Through the restoration of approximately 5,000 square feet of land with California native plants, the project will create valuable habitat for wildlife while providing an outdoor classroom for our entire student body.

Browns Valley School serves more than 600 students, all of whom will have access to this space through classroom instruction and our school's STEAM program. The garden will provide authentic opportunities for students to investigate ecosystems, biodiversity, pollination, plant adaptations, conservation biology, and environmental stewardship through hands-on experiences that align directly with California's Next Generation Science Standards.

This project will become a permanent educational resource for our school. Teachers across multiple grade levels will utilize the garden year after year to support science instruction while fostering environmental literacy and stewardship among our students.

We are especially grateful for the collaboration among the Browns Valley Family Club, Napa Resource Conservation District, Monarch Joint Venture, California Native Plant Society, and our dedicated parent volunteers. This partnership demonstrates our shared commitment to restoring wildlife habitat while inspiring the next generation of conservationists.

Browns Valley Elementary is fully committed to supporting the long-term success of this project. We believe this restoration effort will provide lasting ecological, educational, and community benefits for many years to come.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Christina Lawrence

Kindergarten Teacher

Browns Valley School



1001 Buhman Avenue, Napa, CA 94558
707-253-3761 (Fax) 707-259-8421

Dear Review Committee,

As a fifth grade teacher at Browns Valley School, I am pleased to offer my strongest support for the Browns Valley Family Club's application for funding to complete our Native Pollinator Habitat and Outdoor Learning Garden.

This project represents a unique opportunity to transform an underutilized section of our campus into a thriving native habitat that benefits both wildlife and our students. Through the restoration of approximately 5,000 square feet of land with California native plants, the project will create valuable habitat for wildlife while providing an outdoor classroom for our entire student body.

Browns Valley School serves more than 600 students, all of whom will have access to this space through classroom instruction and our school's STEAM program. The garden will provide authentic opportunities for students to investigate ecosystems, biodiversity, pollination, plant adaptations, conservation biology, and environmental stewardship through hands-on experiences that align directly with California's Next Generation Science Standards.

This project will become a permanent educational resource for our school. Teachers across multiple grade levels will utilize the garden year after year to support science instruction while fostering environmental literacy and stewardship among our students.

We are especially grateful for the collaboration among the Browns Valley Family Club, Napa Resource Conservation District, Monarch Joint Venture, California Native Plant Society, and our dedicated parent volunteers. This partnership demonstrates our shared commitment to restoring wildlife habitat while inspiring the next generation of conservationists.

Browns Valley Elementary is fully committed to supporting the long-term success of this project. We believe this restoration effort will provide lasting ecological, educational, and community benefits for many years to come.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Holliday
5th Grade Teacher