



*Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515*

*Anna G. Eshoo  
Eighteenth District  
California*

April 29, 2022

The Honorable David E. Price,  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Transportation, and  
Housing and Urban Development, and  
Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart,  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation, and  
Housing and Urban Development, and  
Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart,

As you begin your critical work on the Fiscal Year 2023 Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I strongly urge you to include \$1,520,000 for the City of Saratoga to construct a pedestrian walkway from Saratoga Village to Hakone Gardens. This Community Project Funding request is associated with the Department of Transportation account for Highway Infrastructure Projects.

Hakone Gardens is an eighteen-acre traditional Japanese garden and estate listed on the National Registry of Historic Places since 2013. Established as a private residence in 1915 before becoming a city park, now run by a private foundation, Hakone Gardens is both an open space for residents and visitors and venue for a Cultural Exchange Center that promotes greater understanding of Japanese culture. The Hakone Foundation works closely with Sister Cities International to organize events, provide a student exchange program, and host trips to Japan.

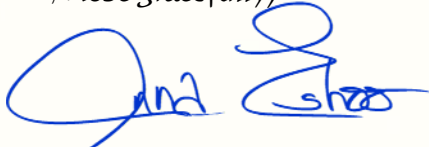
Because Hakone Gardens has limited on-site parking, visitors often park in nearby Saratoga Village, the city's historic downtown, and walk along the shoulder of California State Route 9 to the entrance of the gardens. Vehicles often travel at high speeds on this road, endangering pedestrians and cyclists on the narrow three-foot wide shoulder. Saratoga will use the requested funding to build a 0.15-mile pedestrian walkway from the existing sidewalk in Saratoga Village to Hakone Gardens and add a dedicated five-foot bike lane along the highway.

As an indication of local support, I've enclosed letters from the following community leaders, in addition to letters I received from 70 additional Saratoga residents:

- Mr. Hiroshi Kawamura, Consul General of Japan in San Francisco
- The Honorable S. Joseph Simitian, Supervisor, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
- The Honorable Tina Walia, Mayor, City of Saratoga
- The Honorable Kookie Fitzsimmons, Vice-Mayor, City of Saratoga
- The Honorable Mary-Lynne Bernald, Councilmember, City of Saratoga
- The Honorable Aileen Kao, former Mayor, City of Saratoga
- The Honorable Emily Lo, former Mayor, City of Saratoga
- The Honorable Howard Miller, former Mayor, City of Saratoga
- The Honorable Nai Hsueh, Director, Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors
- The Honorable Phyllis Vogel, Member, Cupertino Union School District Board
- Mr. Shozo Kagoshima, Executive Director, Hakone Foundation
- Mr. Belal Aftab, Chair, Saratoga Traffic Safety Commission
- Ms. Renee Kazemipour, Chair, Saratoga Parks and Recreation Commission
- Dr. Ann Waltonsmith, Chairperson, Hakone Foundation Executive Board
- Dr. Faramarz Yazdani, Treasurer, Hakone Foundation Executive Board
- Ms. Adrienne Reiko Iwanaga, Trustee, Hakone Foundation Board of Trustees
- Ms. Connie Young Yu, Hakone Foundation Board of Trustees
- Ms. Patti Workman, Hakone Foundation Board of Trustees
- Ms. Sandy Miller, Hakone Foundation Board of Trustees
- Mr. Chuck Page, President, Saratoga Chamber of Commerce
- Ms. Ana Ruiz, General Manager, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

If enacted, this request would benefit public safety along a well-traveled and dangerous segment of Highway 9, and it's why I wholeheartedly support this Community Project Funding request and ask that you do so as well.

Most gratefully,



Anna G. Eshoo

Enclosures