May 2018

Lindsey Pope Dunham Elementary School 4111 Roblar Road Petaluma, Ca, 94952

Letter in Support of the Engineers Without Borders Rainwater Harvest System Project

The Dunham Garden Committee is grateful for the interest and participation of the Engineers Without Borders in our Rainwater Harvest Project. Jessica Pollitz, Steve Worrell, and Steve Isaacson visited Dunham in April to provide their perspective, expertise, and advice on the design and placement of our rainwater harvest system on our school campus. Your expertise and experience would greatly increase the success of our project.

Dunham Elementary School is a small school set in the rural rolling hills of north Petaluma. Our student demographics are 75.5% white, 17.2 % Latino or Hispanic, 6.3% two races or more, .5% American Indian or Alaska Native, and .5% Asian. We have 25% of our student families socioeconomically disadvantaged, 9.4% English Learners, and 9.4 % Students with disabilities. We are a public charter school.

The Dunham Garden Program is one of the enrichment programs Dunham provides to our students. Unfortunately the funding of our program has been minimal, our Garden Coordinator and Teacher receives only a small stipend for her teaching hours only. The Garden Committee, coordinated by the Garden Teacher is made up of parent volunteers who fundraise to support the projects and expansion plans we have for our program. Our Garden Committee and the Garden Coordinator seek to expand the garden program and seek to implement a production garden. We are beginning the initials steps of that process by putting in a rainwater catchment system.

The participation of Engineers Without Borders in providing design guidance, recommendations, and resources would be greatly appreciated and would help ensure the structural integrity and longevity for our Rainwater Harvest Project.

We are grateful for your consideration in this project application. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Warmly.

Lindsey Pope