

SAVE THE BAREC FARM CENTER IN SANTA CLARA

It is not too late to stop the sale of BAREC (the Agricultural Education Center) ONE way to stop the land's sale is to write to the Santa Clara City Council to keep it zoned agriculture

ACTION IDEAS: WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write the Santa Clara City Council as they will determine if the land will remain zoned as agriculture or changed and zoned as residential: c/o City Hall, 1500 Warburton Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95050. Also, write: Governor Gray Davis: State Capitol Building, First Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814, and state legislators (their addresses are found at www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html--simply enter your zip code). The most important sentences in the letters should be: **The rezoning from agriculture to housing of the 17 acre UC Agriculture Research Center in Santa Clara should be stopped. The land's zoning should remain in agriculture. We need this center for our urban agricultural/horticultural research and education.** Inform the citizens of the City of Santa Clara because the land is in Santa Clara and they have influence over their legislators. Offer your time and/or money to help ensure the land's agricultural history continues.

Include two or more points such as:

--The Center can help create new jobs, prevent disease (which is costly to our health care system), create a healthier community and citizens, and reduce the costs of maintaining and building our communities.

--In a down economy we should not be eliminating the sector that is working and has historically worked best for us. **The largest sector of the California economy is agriculture.** This does not include retail plant and food sales, landscape construction, and garden-related items. **California accounts for 61% of U.S. fruit sales and 40% of U.S. vegetable sales.** The number one leisure-time activity is gardening.

--The Center has been helping us understand our land for 82 years and should not be sold because there are short-term monetary problems. The State should not be taking things from its citizens that have such a long and successful history creating healthy food and communities. It will be difficult to impossible to recreate this Center and the Central Coast will, therefore, be discriminated against forever.

--The Center can create new jobs in a place where many technology jobs have disappeared and the economy is failing. Biotechnology, the revolution for the 21st century, needs a new definition. It includes not only the study of gene manipulations but also the use of microorganisms to clean up the environment and to create healthier food. It can help us learn to live with nature more harmoniously and less expensively. The Center is needed for this work.

--It brings federal and state grant money, six researchers, and educators into the City of Santa Clara for our needs. Serious current research needs include Sudden Oak Death Syndrome which is killing our native oaks.

--It is the only research center that exists for our region's climate and urban community needs. The two nearest coastal centers are in rural Mendocino and semi-desert Ventura Counties.

--It has been doing important research on urban trees and roots that will help stop expensive damage to foundations, streets, and walks; research on microorganisms for healthier soil thus reducing chemical pesticides and producing healthier food; compost research for cities to reduce landfill costs; **microorganism research is also needed for cleaning up environmental pollution.**

--It has produced new varieties of drought-tolerant lawn grasses that preserve water resources.

--The Center will continue helping our cultural heritage by developing ethnic foods appropriate for our ecology and save our historically important plants with its seed bank. Growing food locally will reduce fossil fuel use and, thus, reduce state freeway maintenance costs.

--It is the home for our master gardeners who develop children's school gardens, teach healthy eating habits and chemical free gardening, and answer the public's garden questions.

--Its historical weather station is connected to hundreds of automatic irrigation systems--It encourages and researches the planting of appropriate habitats for native species, birds, and butterflies.

--**Our governmental organizations and businesses need education and help to understand the ecological implications of their work. If the Center closes we will have five less biotech/ecological research experts and no high-level educational programs to meet community and ecological needs.**

--Within a few years 50% of California's population will be of Latin heritage and most of this population works in agriculture and landscape construction. The urban Latinos are the best educated and can help us understand how to make their lives and work better through new research and educational projects.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.secretgardens.com, contact vivafoundation@secretgardens.com, or call (408) 292-9595.

THIS LAND'S UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION TO SANTA CLARA

Since 1900 this land has uniquely contributed to Santa Clara's community. Money to purchase the land was raised by the community. Therefore, at least a portion of the land should continue to contribute to the community. From 1900 to 1920 Osborne Hall was located here. This institution helped mentally disturbed children and it was the only such place on the West Coast. From 1920 to 1960 it was a nursing home for the families of Civil War Veterans. There were few such homes in the U.S. From 1928 to 2003 it was a UC Ag Research Center, carrying out agricultural research and education needed by the entire State.

Possible Ideas for the Land

Horticultural Resource Library
plants

Community Gardens
A Working Organic Farm
Organic Farmers Market

Children's Gardens

Demonstration Gardens for food and native

Horticultural Therapy Program for Seniors
Community Meeting and Seminar Rooms
Sustainable Ideas for Buildings and Gardens

Master

Gardeners Headquarters and Workshops

Heritage Orchard (most such orchards about 10 acres)

Center for Urban Horticulture and Environmental Organizations

Environmental Studies Programs (Santa Clara University and Mission College)

Possible Examples of Facilities and Gardens

Center for Urban Agriculture in Goleta, CA
www.fairviewgardens.com

Hansen Trust, Ventura County, CA
www.hansentrust.ucdavis.edu

Common Ground, Palo Alto, CA
www.commongroundinpaloalto.org

The Thoreau Center
The Presidio, San Francisco

Ecological Farming Association (located in Watsonville
but desires to be on the BAREC property) www.eco-farm.org

Village Homes, Davis, CA

AERIAL PHOTO OF BAREC LAND

(on Winchester Blvd. in Santa Clara between Forest and Stevens Creek)

