

## **PROJECTS TO HELP SAVE THE UC AG CENTER**

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### **I. HISTORY**

1. Organize a historical scrapbook of the site which can be used to attain funding to create state and national historic status for the property. It will also be used for a museum of the agriculture/horticulture history of the Valley and California's Civil War Veterans history. Much of this information has been collected but it needs to be organized.
2. Help find the original deed and records of land ownership that passed the land to the Civil War veterans. Research the land's transfer to the State. Were there special conditions on the original deed?
3. Interview and tape the people who have worked on the property. Write up a short description of these people, how they contributed to the land, and some of their most interesting stories and insights.
4. Listen to the Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> Santa Clara City Planning Commission hearing and get the name of the person who talked about the unique animal living on the property. What animal was it and exactly what did she say?

### **II. ORGANIZATIONAL WORK**

1. Help set up and write documentation for a non-profit organization that will act as a watchdog for all Santa Clara Valley open space and encourage community participation to insure that all open space land meet our needs and respect our ecological and cultural heritage.
2. Prepare a budget for this new non-profit organization.
3. Get names, addresses, phone numbers, and emails of everyone who attended the City's Planning Commission meetings and those who spoke at the City Council Meetings. Call them to find if they would like to help.
4. What foundations would be interested in helping support the ideas we have discussed in our "Vision Statement"? Following are the ones we think would help: Packard Foundation, State Parks Foundation, Santa Clara County Historical Parks Foundation, Gordon and Betty Moore foundation, and Chez Panisse.
5. Set up a Speaker's Bureau to speak at schools and community organizations. What places would like to hear about the UC Ag Center and when could we speak? It is particularly important to speak to people who lives in the city of Santa Clara.
6. Obtain as many letters of support from individuals and organizations as possible. Set up a packet of information to educate the community about the Center's history and future contributions to the community. The more community support and involvement, the more the Center will meet the needs of the community.
7. Organize a "Kids Campaign." Have them create drawings and poems which go to newspapers and legislators.
8. Get articles published on the Center in the small newspapers (i.e., Los Gatos, Santa Clara, Woodside, Palo Alto, universities) in the region.

### **III. RESEARCH**

1. Research the process by which Fort Mason and the Presidio became centers of the Arts and Environment in San Francisco.
2. Research California's urban state parks and the process by which they came about.
3. Research the Village Homes in Davis, where agriculture is the open space around the housing. Collect information on it. What are the good and bad things we can learn from it? Are there other housing developments similar to this one?

4. Research green housing developments in northern California. What can we learn from them? What architects, services, and products will be available to us? Which ones could become new industries and work for the Valley?
5. Research existing large parcels of agricultural land in Santa Clara County. Are there any whose owners want to retain their agricultural zoning status forever? If so, do they have an agricultural trust to ensure that the land will not be converted into housing? Is there any available land on which we could have a new Center and do a land trade with the State?
6. Research the status of all agricultural, horticultural, and environmental organizations' offices in the Santa Clara Valley. Do they own or lease their office, what is their rent, when is their lease up, how much square footage do they have, is what they have sufficient square footage, does the space meet their needs and, if not, what do they need? Who is responsible for office decisions? Would they move if we could centralize all agricultural, horticultural and environmental organizations into one place?
7. Research the need and desire for horticultural therapy in the South Bay. Who would use it? Are there such programs in the Greater Bay Area or on the Central Coast?

#### **IV. LEGAL ISSUES**

Help lawyers do legal research on the land and governmental transfer issues. Following are some of the questions:

1. Can the State force a local government like the city of Santa Clara to change the zoning from Agriculture to Medium Density Housing?
2. If the community needs the land for public useage, why does the local community need to pay the State for land that is already public land? If the local community does need to buy the land, why does it have to pay housing cost rates at \$2-3 million per acre rather than an agriculturally zoned rate (a high one would be \$40,000 an acre)?
3. The deed restriction between UC and the State reads "when the land is no longer needed or wanted it must revert back to the State." Who determines such a status? Can it be done behind closed doors by one man without using a democratic process throughout the UC Agricultural Programs, including faculty, staff, and administrators? At the same time UC Vice President W. R. Gomes decided to close the Center his top assistant, Stephen Nation, wrote: "Is this a government that is acting for the best interests of the people?"
4. Why did the State decide to fund the newly formed Hansen Ag Learning Center in Ventura County the same year it decided to close the much older Santa Clara County UC Ag Center? What makes this look like discrimination is that the Hansen Center's trust language says it is solely for Ventura County. However, the State gave it a budget larger than the much older and statewide Santa Clara research center. Also, both UC Vice President Gomes and Governor Davis come from this area. What laws are in place to stop such discrimination?
5. The State's original Charter for Land Grant Colleges was written in the 1860's. This Charter called for Extension Services throughout California with research facilities. This Land Grant Charter needs to be studied. Can the State legally break down the Land Grant system? Is the State discriminating against the Central Coast by removing its only research facility? How will the unfinished research be completed for the Central Coast bioregion? How will the State do the disease research we currently have in our region (Sudden Oak Death Syndrome for example)? There does not appear to be a comprehensive state plan for the future of the land grant extension services.
6. No record has yet been found for the original deed that passed the land to the Civil War Veterans. Were there any deed restrictions on this original deed (we've heard verbally that there are)? How did the land transfer from the Civil War Veterans to the State?

7. In Santa Clara Valley there is a long history of governments taking land given to it by individuals for agriculture/horticulture purposes and selling it to developers to pay for government administration costs. Some examples are: Lincoln High School's Future Farmer land, the botanical garden on the site of the San Jose City Hall, Prusch Farm Park's 87 acres was reduced to less than half its size by Cal Trans and the San Jose Police Department Stadium, the Mt. View Dump promised to return the land to a State Park for agriculture but instead today it is a golf course, many active community gardens disappeared as well as South County agriculture land which Cal Trans promised to keep in agriculture and today there is strip commercial development on it. Much more research is needed on the issue. It could even become a Master's Thesis.
8. Review the letter from UC's attorney, Lloyd Lee, to Vice President Gomes regarding the changing laws or interpretations so UC will retain the money for the land's sale. Is this "malfeasance"? Are there other such documents or conversations?
9. Collect the information and forms needed to create an historical status for the land and house.
10. Collect information on open space funding and legal concepts to create the most open space for the property.