



July 3, 2018

City of Chula Vista City Council
276 Fourth Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 91910

City of Chula Vista Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones - Support

Dear Chula Vista City Councilmembers,

The San Diego Food System Alliance is a nonprofit coalition of 40 Voting Members and 100 groups in network consisting of nonprofits, businesses, and community members. We are committed to developing and maintaining an equitable, healthy, and sustainable food system in San Diego County. Our efforts are currently focused on the local adoption of AB551: Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones Act, which we believe supports the community's ability to thrive in an improved food system focused on the environment, economy, equity, and education. AB551 is a California bill passed in 2014 which aims to increase land access for urban agriculture through the use of vacant, privately-owned land.

The San Diego Food System Alliance recently co-sponsored AB465, the 10 year extension of Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones, in partnership with SPUR, PANNA, and Sacramento Urban Ag Alliance. The law was passed by the Governor this September. We are thrilled that the State of California recognizes the value of a policy to encourage urban agriculture in our communities.

We urge the City Council to support City of Chula Vista to follow in the footsteps of other cities including San Francisco, Sacramento, and now San Diego by establishing an Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone.

Urban agriculture provides numerous benefits not only to those growing food, but also to the counties, cities, and neighborhoods in which it happens. City gardening and farming offers public benefits such as vibrant green spaces and recreation, education about fresh food and the effort it takes to produce it, ecological benefits for the city, sites that help build community, and a source of local economic development (UC ANR, 2013).

The San Diego Food System Alliance is ready to help you implement this request in any way we can and member organizations are available to help local communities realize as many of the enumerated benefits as possible.

Sincerely,

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Elly Brown
Alliance Director
San Diego Food System Alliance

ADDRESS

1475 Caminito Solidago
La Jolla, CA 92037

CONTACT

Elly Brown
Alliance Director
elly@sdfs.org
T: 919-328-0046

sdfs.org

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9500 GILMAN DRIVE # 0532
 LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92093-0532

July 6, 2018

City of Chula Vista City Council
 276 Fourth Avenue
 Chula Vista, CA 91910

Re: City of Chula Vista Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones - Support

Dear Chula Vista City Councilmembers,

I am a Ph.D. researcher at the University of California, San Diego in the Department of Anthropology and the UC San Diego Global Food Initiative Student Ambassador working under the direction of Dr. Keith Pezzoli, Director of the UC San Diego Bioregional Center for Sustainability Science, Planning and Design. My research deals with the social, political, and economic dimensions of urban agriculture in the San Diego-Tijuana metropolitan region. The UC San Diego Bioregional Center supports urban agriculture as a way to define new means for co-producing food, science literacy, and food security at a neighborhood scale. Furthermore, the University of California Global Food Initiative dedicates part of its efforts toward analyzing and evaluating urban agriculture in low-income and underserved neighborhoods to examine its potential to reduce food disparities and increase food security.

Because of our dedication to understanding and encouraging the positive impact that urban agriculture can have, we are also part of the San Diego Food System Alliance Urban Agriculture Working Group. The Working Group is focused on promoting the local adoption of AB551: Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones Act, which we believe supports the community's ability to thrive in an improved food system focused on the environment, economy, equity, and education. AB551 is a California bill passed in 2014 that aims to increase land access for urban agriculture through the use of vacant, privately-owned land.

We urge the City Council to support the City of Chula Vista to follow in the footsteps of other cities including San Francisco, Sacramento, and now San Diego by establishing an Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone.

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We intend to work within San Diego Food System Alliance's Urban Agriculture Working Group to help you implement this request in any way we can. The Working Group member organizations are available to help local communities realize as many of the enumerated benefits as possible.

Sincerely,

Belinda Ramirez
 Ph.D. Candidate
 UC San Diego Department of Anthropology
 UC San Diego Bioregional Center for Sustainability Science, Planning and Design
 UC Global Food Initiative



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July 3, 2018

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276 Fourth Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 91910

City of Chula Vista Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones - Support

Dear Chula Vista City Councilmembers,

Bayside Community Center is an 86-year-old nonprofit located in Linda Vista. Our mission is to empower our diverse community to improve its quality of life through services, education, and advocacy. Bayside is also home to the Linda Vista Community Garden. One of Bayside's focus areas is food security, which is a challenge in a low-income neighborhood like Linda Vista – a USDA-identified food desert. Bayside works to increase access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food for its resident.

Bayside also co-chairs the San Diego Food System Alliance Urban Agriculture Working Group. The Working Group is focused on promoting the local adoption of AB551: Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones Act, which we believe supports the community's ability to thrive in an improved food system focused on the environment, economy, equity, and education. AB551 is a California bill passed in 2014 which aims to increase land access for urban agriculture through the use of vacant, privately-owned land.

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Our organization intends to work within San Diego Food System Alliance's Urban Agriculture Working Group to help you implement this request in any way we can. The Working Group member organizations are available to help local communities realize as many of the enumerated benefits as possible.

Sincerely,

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Kim Heinele, Community Advocate Coordinator
Bayside Community Center
kheinle@baysidecc.org



Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County
11769 Waterhill Rd., Lakeside, CA 92040
Phone: (619) 562-0096 🍁 **Fax: (619) 562-4799**
Website: www.rcdsandiego.org

City of Chula Vista City Council
276 Fourth Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 91910

July 3, 2018

City of Chula Vista Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones - Support

Dear Chula Vista City Councilmembers,

I am writing from the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County. We work across the county to protect, conserve, and restore natural resources through information, education, and technical assistance. Our programs include managing the largest community garden in San Diego County and supporting farmers and growers to adopt land management practices that build soil health. We support urban agriculture and believe it can make food growing and healthy produce more accessible to more local residents, as well as turn vacant lots into attractive and productive spaces.

We are part of the San Diego Food System Alliance Urban Agriculture Working Group. The Working Group is focused on promoting the local adoption of AB551: Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones Act, which we believe supports the community's ability to thrive in an improved food system focused on the environment, economy, equity, and education. AB551 is a California bill passed in 2014 which aims to increase land access for urban agriculture through the use of vacant, privately-owned land.

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Sincerely,

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Sheryl Landrum
Executive Director, Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County