



San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Land Use and Economic Development Committee
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
City Hall, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

May 14, 2012

Dear Members of the Land Use and Economic Development Committee:

The San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance (SFUAA) supports the urban agriculture legislation introduced April 24 (Ordinance 120404) and the goals it sets for the City. The new urban agriculture program proposed in the legislation will coordinate efforts among agencies on specific, measurable targets with timelines; increase accountability by placing responsibility for coordination and reaching the goals with a specific person and agency; and begin a strategic planning process and evaluation that will help make better use of existing city resources.

The SFUAA also calls on the Board of Supervisors to:

- Ensure that the new urban agriculture program is adequately funded. For the new program to succeed, at least one staff person must be dedicated full-time to coordinating the already existing efforts happening in agencies and neighborhoods across the city. More broadly, we believe that both the new urban agriculture program and existing agency efforts would be improved with additional funding for educational programming, site maintenance, and the development of resource centers.
- Explicitly include mention that the new program should explore how urban agriculture can provide job training and/or employment opportunities in the listing of duties in section 53.3[b]
- Require that the evaluation and strategic plan mentioned in sections 53.3[c] and 53.3[d] include projected budgets and identify potential sources of funding.
- Emphasize that for the evaluation to be successful, the opinions of non-profit organizations and community groups involved in urban agriculture should be included alongside those of agencies. The legislation should be amended to explicitly mention these constituencies in regard to the evaluation (section 53.3[d]).
- Incorporate an oversight body, such as an advisory board or citizen's advisory committee, for the new program. This will help ensure that more San Franciscans are invested in the new program, a wider range of voices are heard, and help provide accountability.

We believe the legislation is a positive step forward for San Francisco and can be made even stronger with the amendments outlined above.

Sincerely,

Antonio Roman-Alcalá, Dana Perls, Elan Segarra, & Susan Kuehn
SFUAA co-coordinators
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Mission Statement:

The San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance (SFUAA) promotes the growing of food within San Francisco and the associated goals of our member organizations, through advocacy, education, and grassroots action.

We pursue our mission by leveraging the strengths of our members, from backyard farmers to social justice organizations, both within the alliance and in collaboration with outside organizations and governmental agencies.

Organizational Members (as of April 2012)

- 49 Farms
- Anne Hamersky Photography
- Aunt Em's Urban Inn + Farm
- Bay Localize
- Buried River Ranch
- City Grazing
- CommunityGrows
- Center for Urban Education about Sustainable Agriculture (CUESA)
- Cultivate SF
- Design Ecology
- Eating Dirt
- Ecology Center of San Francisco (ECOSF)
- Episcopal Diocese of California
- Feel the Earth
- The Free Farm
- Friends of Alemany Farm
- From the Ground Up
- Future Action Reclamation Mob (FARM)
- Garden For the Environment
- Global Exchange
- Green Earth Gardeners
- GrowCity
- Grubly
- Hayes Valley Farm
- Heartbeets
- How to Homestead
- Ideation Incubator
- Itty Bitty Farm in the City
- Little City Gardens
- Master Gardeners
- Mission Community Market
- Mission Vertical Farming
- People Organized to Win Employment Rights (POWER)
- Pesticide Watch
- Produce to the People
- Rainbow Grocery
- Recology
- Saint Vincent de Paul Society
- San Francisco Bee-Cause
- San Francisco Green Schoolyard Alliance
- San Francisco Landscapes
- SEAM Studio
- SF Permaculture Guild
- Slide Ranch
- Tenderloin People's Garden
- The Garden Community
- TransitionSF
- US Green Building Council - Northern California Chapter
- Urban Edibles
- Urban Kitchen SF
- Urban Share
- Urban Sprouts
- Virtually Green - SCUFI
- We Players
- Yards to Gardens