



Candidate Questionnaire Reponses from: Tony Hall

Questions from the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance

Access to Land

One of the largest barriers to expanding urban agriculture in San Francisco is access to land. There are numerous potential locations including vacant lots, underutilized public land, and barren rooftops. How will you facilitate the linking of passionate gardeners and organizations with usable sites? And will you prioritize helping the SFUAA reach its goal of 12 new gardens by the end of 2012?

Yes, As mayor I will facilitate the linking of passionate gardeners and organizations with usable sites and will co duct a survey to identify usable sites within all 11 supervisorial districts within the City.

City Support

What role do you see the city government playing in supporting urban agriculture and the growing community of city gardeners and farmers? How will you work to create a more fluid and efficient system for the creation and maintenance of urban gardens and farms in SF?

It is essential that such a worthwhile endeavor receive the utmost of attention from our local government.

Access to Resources

The will and manpower to create beautiful and effective urban agriculture projects is amply present as evidenced by the extensive community involvement in the work of SFUAA members (<http://www.sfuaa.org/membership.html>). However, a lack of resources such as tools, compost, mulch and money has continued to be a difficult obstacle to overcome. If you become mayor, what will you do to help increase the availability and distribution of resources for urban gardeners and farmers? And will you commit to ensuring that every supervisorial district is equipped with an urban agriculture resource center by 2012?

As mayor, I will instruct the Dept. of Public works to include in their annual budget the necessary resources to set up,a center in each supervisorial district.

San Francisco as a National Leader

Since San Francisco prides itself on being a trailblazer for progressive causes, how will you make San Francisco a national leader in building a healthy and sustainable food system?

With proper outreach and public relations related to same.

Gardening and Agricultural Experience

Do you currently grow, or have you ever grown, food in the city? We are curious to hear about anything from a small pot of herbs in a window sill to a full blown vegetable garden.

I have planted, cultivated and grown various vegetables and herbs in available space within the two homes that I have owned in San Francisco. I have supported community efforts to do same in both District 7 and District 4.

Questions from the San Francisco Green Schoolyard Alliance

Outdoor Classrooms

SFGSA's experience shows that green schoolyards serving as outdoor classrooms help close the achievement gap and attract families to our public schools. How would you encourage this trend?

By public outreach and advertising.

Schools as Green Hubs

SFGSA is launching into our next phase of work to insure that SFUSD schools are green hubs for each community. For example, we are helping schools develop gardens and natural play areas, installing cisterns for rainwater harvesting to better understand the value of our watersheds, solar panels to understand renewable energy sources, and composting lunch room waste to help increase waste diversion above 75%. How would you support this momentum in our public schools?

I support the effort.

Increasing Community Support

All of our efforts to make our schools better only work with intensive community support. San Francisco has the highest percentage of families who have decided not to send their children to public schools. How would you change this?

School choice is a very important tool that parents must have available in their decision as relates to their children's education.

Green Schoolyard Tours

SFGSA has found that our green schoolyard tours can change the way potential SFUSD families view our public schools. Have you toured any SFUSD green schoolyards lately?

Yes, i have toured a number of green schoolyards and am supportive of the movement.

Next Generation of Students

Our public schools are in crisis. Our environment is in crisis. What sort of environmental knowledge would you like the next generation of SFUSD students to graduate with, and how will you help them attain it?

Proper funding with emphasis on the value of environment should be part of the basic curriculum.

Questions from the Bay Area Water Stewards

Potential New Water Sources

San Francisco imports virtually all of its water from outside the City primarily from the wild and scenic Tuolumne River (85% of SF's water supply). SFPUC is currently evaluating several potential new sources of local water supply, including greywater, recycled water, groundwater and a desalination plant on SF Bay. All of the options under consideration have generated controversy over cost (most are more expensive than our current water supply) and environmental impacts. As mayor, how would you decide which, if any of these alternatives to pursue, and how would you address the controversies surrounding your decision?

A thorough review of our water resources is one of my primary objectives. The SFPUC is one of the agencies that must be scrutinized to insure proper handling of SF water resources and the handling of public monies related to such.

Stormwater Runoff and Green Spaces

The city has a combined sewer/stormwater system, which means that we spend money and energy to treat all of our stormwater as sewage. An increase in urban agriculture and greening, along with an emphasis on low-impact development, can save time, water, and money. Given the City receives an average of 20 inches of rainfall each year (the equivalent of half of our annual consumption) how would your office support these strategies?

As the Supervisor who rescued Lake Merced, I know a great deal about storm water versus sewage. An intelligent approach to the effective treatment of each is the only solution that will impact urban agriculture and greening.

Smart Water Usage

The City has the lowest per-capita water usage of any large City in California, because of climate, small lot size, and the fact that much of the land area is covered in impervious surfaces (buildings, streets and sidewalks). Greening the City without

increasing our water usage will require smarter use of existing supplies (including stormwater, gray water and recycled water) Will you as Mayor direct the SFPUC to invest in alternative (non-system) water supplies for community garden and urban farms?

Yes.

Long-term Stormwater Capture

SF's sewer system is designed to allow 10-12 combined sewer overflows annually. As sea levels continue to rise, this practice will become less and less feasible. Long-term investments in stormwater capture through green infrastructure can reduce these overflows, but cannot be accomplished by the PUC alone. What will you as Mayor do to integrate needed actions (such as design requirements, enforcement of impervious bans and new maintenance needs) into all City Departments' work plans and budgets?

All of the above will be addressed in my administration.

Commission Nominee Attributes

The SF PUC sets water policy for the City. As Mayor, what attributes would you look for in candidates you nominate to serve on the commission?

Knowledge, experience and the ability to serve the common good.