

SAVE UC AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY

It is not too late to stop the execution of the Santa Clara County Research Center. One way to stop the land's execution is to write to Governor Davis to pardon it!

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. This letter must be received by January 31st so it will be read before the **Feb. 4th meeting** when they will be considering the land's zoning status. **This meeting needs many people who support ALL the land remaining agriculturally zoned.** It will be held in the City Hall, East Wing, 7-9 p.m. Also, write: Governor Gray Davis: State Capitol Building, First Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 and educate your state legislators about this issue. The most important sentences in the letters should be: **The sale of the 17 acre UC Agriculture Research Center in Santa Clara County scheduled for early February 2003 should be stopped. The land's zoning should remain in agriculture. We need this center for our Central Coast urban agricultural/horticultural research and education.**

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 healthier communities 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 Central Coast for our needs. Serious current research needs include Sudden Oak Death Syndrome and the Pine Beetle disease, both of which are killing our native trees.

--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 tree and root care that will help stop expensive damage to foundations, streets, and walks, and research on microorganisms for healthier soil thus reducing chemical pesticides, and creating healthier food. **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 helps train master gardeners who develop children's school gardens, teach healthy eating habits, and answer the public's garden problems.

--Its historical weather station is connected to hundreds of automatic irrigation systems, thus conserving precious water.

--It encourages and researches the planting of appropriate habitats for endangered species, birds, and butterflies.

--**Our region's urban 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 regional 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 or kathryn@secretgardens.com or (408) 292-9595