

Daly City Community Garden Alliance

City of Daly City Council
333 90th Street
Daly City, CA 94015
CityCouncil@DalyCity.org

Monday, February 7, 2022

Re: Daly City's Only Community Garden—Serramonte Del Ray

Dear Mayor Daus-Magbual and Councilmembers,

On Feb 1, 2022, the Jefferson Union High School District board of trustees notified the community of their intent to close Daly City's only Community Garden. JUHSD plans to convert the garden and orchard into a construction dump and eventually build a 14-story tower over the dump.

On Feb 1, 2022, JUHSD approved spending \$170,000 for 24/7 security guards (\$21,600 per month), more fencing (\$16,760) and surveillance cameras (\$2,050 per month) to intimidate community gardeners. Inaccurate and misleading information was presented by JUHSD staff to justify the expenditure. These public funds should instead be prioritized for teacher salaries.

Please clarify, was closure of the garden the intent of the Daly City Council when councilmembers approved a resolution on Jan 10, 2022, granting two billion dollars of entitlements to JUHSD? **Please let JUHSD know if closing Daly City's only Community Garden was not the intent of your resolution.**

It has come to our attention that JUHSD has alleged that the garden is the site of an encampment for unhoused people and that beer cans were found in the garden. These allegations are not true. The conditions described refer to an area of JUHSD land near Shasta Summit High School, not the garden. Dumped trash, an extremely dangerous open sewer manhole and the unhoused encampment are all located outside of the Community Garden on land within the proposed Serramonte Del Ray project site.

We are concerned that JUHSD is using conditions experienced by unhoused individuals (including some students) in the Bay Area to attack the Community Garden. The District, the City and the County should provide sanitary facilities that are accessible to unhoused residents. We encourage the City to work with the District, County and State to provide no-cost housing to unhoused people.

The City's current housing policies are reflected of the District's proposal to build 90% "market rate" apartments on publicly owned land. Today's market rate housing is unaffordable for most Daly City residents and families with children attending the District's high schools. For this reason, **please increase the City's low-income housing requirement to a minimum of 33 percent.** Insufficient low-income housing has led to the current housing crisis, and only by creating additional low-income housing in perpetuity can we reduce the cost of living in the Bay Area.

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The garden is well maintained by hard working community members. JUHSD should follow the example set by community gardeners and clean up trash dumped on public lands that they are responsible for managing.

We encourage JUHSD to become good stewards of the environment. In an era of devastating climate disasters, it's extremely reckless of the school district to destroy sequestered carbon to build a concrete jungle. Please oppose destroying Daly City's only Community Garden.

Please protect the garden at its existing site.

Sincerely,

Daly City Community Garden Alliance

The Daly City Community Garden Alliance includes the following organizations:

[4DalyCity](#)

[Serramonte Ridge Renters Association](#)

[JUHSD Alumni for Green Schools](#)

[Preservation Ancient Traditional Indigenous Lands](#) - *Educators of Sacred Sites and Caregivers of Mother Earth*

[Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter](#)

[Pacifica Social Justice](#)

[Youth vs Apocalypse](#)

[Palestinian Youth Movement](#)

[Gay Shame](#) - *Nonhierarchical Direct Action and Radical Queer Collective*

And the following individuals:

Betty Parent – Athabafcan/Yupi'ka and Alaska Native

Mary Jean Robertson – Cherokee Tribe of Oklahoma

Mary Smith – Navajo

Bernice Hapathly – Navajo

Barbara Nyhan – Ho-Cuk – Wisconsin Winnebago

Alberta Snyder – Washoe Nevada/California

Debbie Santiago – Washoe Nevada/California and Osage of Oklahoma

Valerie Laiwa - Navajo and Clarence Jr. Laiwa – Pomo/Wailaki Tribe of California

Allan Harrison – Northern Pomo of California

Janine Laiwa – Pomo/Piont-Arena California

Juanita Ward and Susie Ward – Comanche

Jacqueline Lomeli – Luiseno California

Morningstar Vanci – Lenape PA