EARTHLAB FARM PROJECT
Groundwork San Diego Chollas Creek

- A non-profit organization created to bring about the sustained regeneration, improvement and management of the physical environment through the development of community-based partnerships empowering people, businesses and organizations to promote environmental, economic and social well-being.
EARTHLAB

• 4-acre site in SE San Diego at hwy 94 & Euclid Ave.
• A dynamic outdoor learning lab teaching conservation, ecology, resource management, and alternative energy, dedicated to creating stewards of place in the Chollas Creek watershed.
• Native plant nursery serving habitat restoration projects and community landscaping.
• Pocket park/conservation garden with public access and water-wise landscape demonstration.
• 1/3 acre farm.
The mission of the EarthLab farm project is threefold:

1) To grow and sell affordable, sustainably-grown produce to a traditionally underserved San Diego community, SDUSD area schools, and select restaurants.

2) To provide a safe educational area for San Diego schoolchildren and community members to learn about farming, nutrition and food justice.

3) To provide a working farm where community members can volunteer, intern, and learn marketable skills for a career in agriculture and at-home gardening/food production.
FARM SITE
CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

• Identify community needs
• Develop business plan, income stream, financial sustainability
• Assemble team of interns, volunteers, partner organizations, advisory board
• Identify funding through donations, grants
• Site preparation
• Planting of farm
Community Needs

- Access to Nutrition
- Training in Urban Ag
- Learning Opportunities
- More Dynamic Earthlab
• Create a viable revenue stream through sales to SDUSD, area restaurants, and a community farm-stand
• Cover cost of labor, farm manager salary, materials needed
• Cooperative partnerships with area urban farms
PERSONNEL

- Farm manager
- Educator/curriculum coordinator
- Interns
- Advisory board
- Volunteers
• USDA Farm-to-School grant applicant
• Partnering with Urban Life and Second Chance for the Farmers Market Promotion Program RFA Grant
• Other options include private donations, crowdfunding, material donations
Farm site preparation began February 2017

Planting of 1/3 acre farm site April 2017
Strengthen partnership with SDUSD farm-to-school program and other organizations

Initiate a waste-stream sequestration program, ie. Composting

Develop a qualifiable analysis of the farm’s effect on community health

Create part-time, paid jobs

Develop a SE growers Cooperative

Have fun!