

## LOMA PRIETA CHAPTER INFORMATION

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## NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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### To join the Sierra Club

Contact the Chapter office. Annual dues are \$39 of which \$1 is for the LP. Membership is not tax-deductible.

### Subscription/mail problems

Please report to the Chapter office at (650) 390-8411

### Submissions

The LP encourages members to submit news, stories, reviews and letters. Please contact the editor by fax at (650) 390-8497, by e-mail at <melissa.hippard@sierraclub.org> or by mail to the Chapter office.

### Outings Listings

Listings must be submitted to the Chapter one month prior to publication.

### Advertising

Contact Ad Manager (see below). Deadline for ad space is due two months prior to publication.

### Volunteers

The LP welcomes volunteers and new writers. Please call for information.

### Loma Prieta Staff

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## LOMA PRIETAN

# Save BAREC, Our Public Historical Agriculture Land

By Katherine Matthewson

The Central Coast has only one urban public agricultural parcel of land. These 17 acres have contributed to our community since the 1880s. The State and city of Santa Clara have plans and a draft EIR to place medium density and high-rise senior housing on it! Together we can stop this. Save BAREC has been working for over five years to save these 17 acres and to keep this land agriculturally zoned as a farm, for children to learn about healthy food, for horticultural/soil health/nutrition education for professionals and government and private citizens, and for a museum in its historic buildings and greenhouses which were donated by the State Florists Association. UC Santa Cruz has promised to help duplicate their K to 12 Life Labs and Agroecology and Sustainable Food System programs here.

The land is called BAREC (Bay Area Research and Extension Center) and is located on Winchester near Highways 280 and 880, across from the Valley Fair mall on the border between San Jose and Santa Clara. BAREC is historical but the draft EIR does not include this fact. It has contributed to the Central Coast community in two unique west coast ways: home and hospital for children and families of Civil War Veterans and as a UC agriculture and urban horticultural research center since 1928.



The final EIR should be coming out in the next few months and then shortly thereafter the City Council will probably rezone BAREC

from agriculture to housing. Unfortunately the government is always surprising the community with their timing and process. If the process continues to go as it has been, the Save BAREC organization will be forced to file a CEQA lawsuit and referendum when the City Council votes to change the zoning. It appears this is what they plan to do despite standing room only meeting opposition. For more information visit [www.savebarec.org](http://www.savebarec.org) or write [info@savebarec.org](mailto:info@savebarec.org), or call 888-BAREC-80.

Following is what is needed from Sierra Club members and their friends:

1. Legal and experienced help for referendums and the CEQA process.
2. Registered Santa Clara citizens to help to collect 8500 signatures in 30 days for the referendum.
3. Historical expertise for the application to place BAREC on the State and National Historical Registries.
4. Money donations or foundation ideas to purchase BAREC at an agriculturally zoned price and also for the law suit. Send payments to non-profit VIVA (Valley Initiative for Values in Urban Agriculture and Horticulture).
5. Express your concern by writing to: Santa Clara City Council, Assemblywomen Sally Lieber, State Senators Elaine Alquist and Joe Simidian, and the Santa Clara County Supervisors. Addresses are on the website.

6. Place your name on Save BAREC's email list so you are kept informed. Plan to attend the meeting when the city council votes to change the zoning. We will need thousands of people to protest this vote. ■

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