

## **TOP 15 REASONS WE SHOULD SAVE 17 ACRE HERITAGE LAND IN SANTA CLARA**

1. This land has been contributing to our community in unique cutting edge ways for almost 150 years as an urban agriculture/horticulture research/education center (1928 to 2003) as a home for civil war veteran's families (1921 to 1963) and as a center for mentally disturbed children (1886 to 1920).
2. 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.
3. The **State should not take land 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. The sale of this land shows discrimination against California's Central Coast and will take away from the public the best soil in the world.
4. 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.**
5. It brings federal, state and private foundation grant money, six researchers, and educators into the City of Santa Clara for our needs. Serious current research needs include Sudden Oak Death Syndrome that is killing our native oaks and **microorganism research for cleaning up environmental pollution and healthy food.**
6. It is the **only research extension center that exists for our region's climate and urban community needs.** The two nearest coastal centers are in rural Mendocino and Orange Counties. **It is considered the State's leader in the rural/urban interface issues.**
7. It has been doing **important urban horticultural research** on urban trees and roots that will help stop expensive damage to foundations, streets, and walks; research on microorganisms for healthier soil thus reducing chemical pesticides, producing healthier food, and creating plants which need less water; compost research for the City of San Jose which reduced its garbage dramatically because of its research and led to a national award winning Green waste Program.
8. It has researched new varieties of **drought-tolerant lawn grasses that preserve water resources.**
9. Following is some of the research done at BAREC: Oak Root Fungus and other soil diseases, American Pomological Society's highest honor for apple research, low water use plants, best varieties for our soil and climate of fruit trees, garlic, chili peppers and tomatoes, biotechnology, Dutch Elm Disease, walnut and nut blight, brown rot in apricots, cut flowers for the California State Flower growers Association
10. Historical buildings. **The property and its buildings are in line for being listed in the National Historic Registry.**

11. 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.
12. It was the home for the **Santa Clara County Master Gardeners** who develop children's school gardens, teach healthy eating habits and chemical free gardening, and give **educational gardening programs**. With its closing they will have lost their home.
13. Its **historical weather station** is connected to hundreds of automatic irrigation systems that help reduce our urban water. The largest user of water in the State is for urban landscape purposes. Also, BAREC's two historical wells help to monitor the Valley's groundwater in a part of the Valley that is highly urbanized and does not have such public wells.
14. **Our governmental organizations and businesses need education and help to understand the ecological implications of their work. Since the Center was closed in January 2003, the region has five less biotech/ecological research experts and no high-level educational programs to meet community and ecological needs.** San Jose, "the Garden City of the World" is the 11<sup>th</sup> largest city in the United States and the only major metropolitan area with no center for horticulture.
15. The Center has reinforced our cultural diversity by introducing **ethnic foods**. Its **strawberry** research was the reason the Japanese returned to California after WWII. Within a few years 50% of California's population will be of Latin heritage and most of this population works in the agriculture and landscape industries. **This land can help improve their lives.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.savebarec.org>, email: [info@savebarec.org](mailto:info@savebarec.org) or call 408-292-9595.

**It is not too late** to stop the sale of BAREC/University of California Agricultural Research Center.

- Write the Santa Clara City Council as their vote 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.
- Also, write Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger: State Capitol Building, First Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814, and state legislators

**The rezoning from agriculture to housing of the 17-acre UC Agriculture Research Center in Santa Clara should be stopped. The land's zoning should remain in agriculture. We need this heritage land for our urban agricultural/horticultural research and education.**