

# SAVE OUR 17 ACRE HERITAGE LAND IN SANTA CLARA ON WINCHESTER BOULEVARD

It is not too late to stop the sale of BAREC/University of California Agricultural Research Center. Write the Santa Clara City Council to keep it zoned agriculture and stop it from becoming housing.

## ACTION IDEAS: WHAT YOU CAN DO

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 (their addresses are found at <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html>--simply enter your zip code). The most important sentences in the letters should be: **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.** Inform the citizens of the City of Santa Clara because BAREC is in Santa Clara and they have influence over their City Council. Give your time and/or money to ensure this land continues to contribute to our community.

Include two or more points such as:

--This land has been contributing to our community in unique, cutting-edge ways for over 150 years. It has California's only Civil War site and was the state's major urban horticultural center.

--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 State should not be taking land from its citizens that has 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.

--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.

--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 ensuring healthy food.**

--It is the only research extension 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.**

--It has been doing important 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 landscapes which need less water which will help during drought years; compost research for San Jose which reduced its garbage output dramatically.

--It has researched new varieties of drought-tolerant lawn grasses and plants that preserve water resources.

--Several historical buildings. **Lori Garcia, the City of Santa Clara's historian, publicly stated: "BAREC is so important to the City and region that it should be placed on the National Historical Registry."**

--Growing organic food locally will ensure healthy food and reduce healthcare expenses. This will also reduce fossil fuel usage, and thus, reduce state freeway maintenance costs. Programs to connect organic farmers to schools and seniors are needed.

--BAREC was the home of the County's Master Gardeners, who develop children's school gardens, teach healthy eating habits and chemical free gardening, and give gardening and composting programs. Landscapes are the largest user of urban water. Master Gardeners help us understand the plants needed to minimize water. With BAREC's closing, they have lost their home.

--Its historical 1928 weather station was connected to a satellite that helped monitor and reduce water on commercial irrigation systems. Its historical two wells help to monitor the ground water in Santa Clara Valley.

--**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.**

--BAREC is about the health of our cultural and economic diversity. Many people work in the agriculture/landscape professions and it takes land like BAREC to train them to be better professionals.

--BAREC has the best soil in the world and we need to preserve and study it.

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

## THIS LAND'S UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION TO SANTA CLARA

Since 1850 this land has uniquely contributed to Santa Clara. From 1850 to 1882 it was the Normal School. From 1882 to 1920 it was Osborne Hall, a home for physically and mentally disabled children. From 1921 to 1960 it was a home for families of Civil War Veterans. From 1928 to 2003 it was a University of California Agricultural/Horticultural Research Center, carrying out agricultural research and education needed for the entire State and our bioregion. More than half the money to purchase BAREC and all the money for its buildings was raised by the community. Therefore, more than one-half of BAREC's 17 acres should continue contributing to the community.

### Possible Ideas for the Land

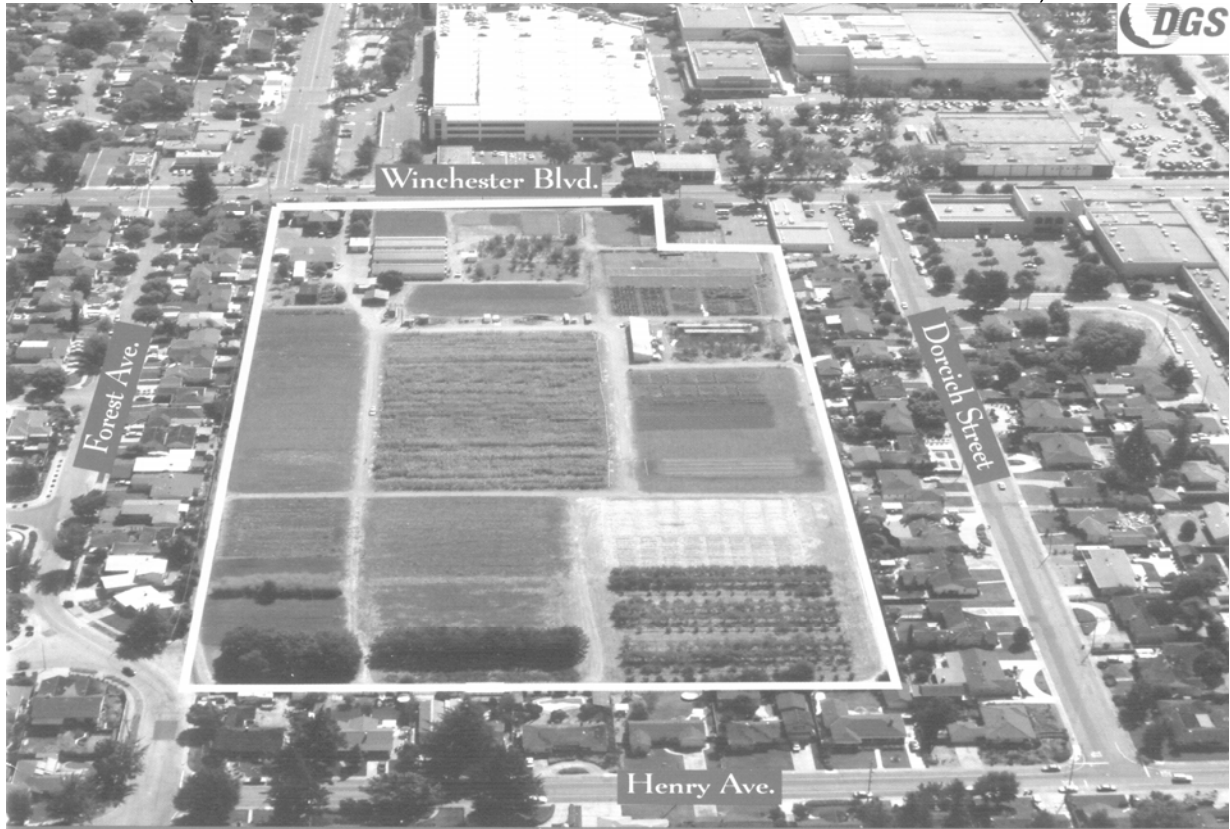
Horticultural Resource Library  
Community and Ethnic Gardens  
Working Organic Farm  
Organic Farmers Market  
Children's Gardens  
Heritage Orchard and Mission Farm  
Center for Urban Horticulture and Environmental Organizations  
Environmental Studies Programs (Santa Clara University and Mission College)

Demonstration Gardens (food, garden plants)  
Horticultural Therapy Program for seniors  
Community Meeting and Seminar Rooms  
Sustainable Ideas for Buildings and Gardens  
Master Gardeners Headquarters and Workshops  
Alternative Medicine Plants and Education

### Possible Examples of Facilities and Gardens

Center for Urban Agriculture in Goleta, CA <a href="http://www.fairviewgardens.com">http://www.fairviewgardens.com</a>	Hansen Trust, Ventura County, CA <a href="http://www.hansentrust.ucdavis.edu">http://www.hansentrust.ucdavis.edu</a>
Common Ground, Palo Alto, CA <a href="http://www.commongroundinpaloalto.org">http://www.commongroundinpaloalto.org</a>	Thoreau Center for Sustainability, The Presidio, S.F. <a href="http://www.thoreau.org">http://www.thoreau.org</a>
Ecological Farming Association (located in Watsonville but desires to be on the BAREC property) <a href="http://www.eco-farm.org">http://www.eco-farm.org</a>	Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems, UC Santa Cruz , will relocate to BAREC if agriculturally zoned <a href="http://www.agroecology.org">http://www.agroecology.org</a>

**AERIAL PHOTO OF BAREC LAND (across from Valley Fair)**  
 (On Winchester Blvd. in Santa Clara between Forest and Stevens Creek)



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