



**STAFF REPORT**  
**COUNCIL MEETING DATE:**  
**June 11, 2012**

**ITEM FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:**

**Authorization to submit a letter of support for a grant application by the Carpinteria Unified School District for a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant to be used for a community garden project at the Carpinteria High School.**

**Report prepared by:**

**Department: Parks and Recreation**

**Reviewed by: City Manager**

*Matthew Roberts*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
*[Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

**Action  Non-Action**

**Recommendation: Authorize the City Manager to sign a letter of support to be included as part of an application for a USDA grant for funding the operation of a community garden at the Carpinteria High School.**

**Sample Motion:**

**I move to authorize the City Manager to sign and submit the draft letter of support to be included as part of the Carpinteria Unified Schools District's application for a USDA community garden grant.**

**I. BACKGROUND:**

The Carpinteria High School has an Agricultural Science and Technology Academy (ASTA) that includes a curriculum of agricultural related classes. In addition the School offers Culinary Art Institute (CAI) educational classes.

The high school now is proposing to introduce a community garden program that will allow community members and students to cultivate plots of land. This will complement the ASTA and the CAI by providing students and community members with an opportunity to experience the many educational and social benefits that a community garden project can provide.

**II. DISCUSSION:**

Community gardens offer unique opportunities to teach participants about;

- ✓ Where food comes from
- ✓ Practical math skills
- ✓ Basic business principles
- ✓ The importance of community and stewardship
- ✓ Issues of environmental sustainability
- ✓ Job and life skills

Many community gardeners take advantage of food production in community gardens to provide a significant source of food and/or income.

Community gardens allow families and individuals without land of their own the opportunity to produce food.

Community gardens provide access to nutritionally rich foods that may otherwise be unavailable to low-income families and individuals.

Urban agriculture is 3-5 times more productive per acre than traditional large-scale farming.

The community garden project at the high school may be capable of providing fresh produce to the CAI and demonstrating the extraordinary benefits growing and preparing local produce.

**III. POLICY:**

Should the project come to fruition, the general wellbeing of the community will be served. The project also supports the City's intent to promote sustainability and healthy living.

**IV. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

No financial participation by the City is proposed.

**V. LEGAL ISSUES:**

No legal issues have been identified related to the recommended action.

**VI. ALTERNATIVES:**

No alternatives have been evaluated.

**VII. PRINCIPAL PARTIES EXPECTED AT MEETING:**

None

**VIII. ATTACHMENTS:**

Draft letter of support

# CITY of CARPINTERIA, CALIFORNIA

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June 11, 2012

Attention: Gregory Walton, Grants Officer  
Grants and Fiscal Policy Division  
U.S. Department of Agriculture, FNS  
3101 Park Center Dr., Room 732  
Alexandria, VA 22302

Re: USDA Grant CFDA #10.575 Farm to School Grant Program

Dear Mr. Walton,

We are pleased to write this letter in support of the submission of the Farm to School Implementation Grant by the Carpinteria Unified School District (CUSD). The City of Carpinteria and the Carpinteria Unified School District have a rich history of working together to successfully achieve common goals. The City and School District have partnered on many significant projects such as a community swimming pool, middle school athletic facilities and safe routes to school projects.

The Carpinteria Community embraces agriculture as a critically important economic and quality of life industry. CUSD operates an impressive program known as the Agricultural Science and Technology Academy (ASTA). The district has embraced organic agriculture and has excelled in providing a healthy quality food service for their students and staff as a result. Your agency's funding will enable them to further connect the ASTA program to the community in a very visible and powerful way that the City believes will spark even more interest and durability to the program. This is an excellent opportunity to strengthen the community's interest in agriculture and best integrate students, adults and the District.

We strongly recommend you consider the Carpinteria Unified School District for full funding.

Please contact us at (805) 684-5405 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

David Durflinger  
City Manager, ext 400