

**City of Garden Grove**

**INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

To: Matthew J. Fertal  
Dept.: City Manager  
Subject: COMMUNITY GARDEN

From: Kimberly Huy  
Dept.: Community Services  
Date: July 28, 2009

OBJECTIVE

To provide information about a community garden project and request approval to proceed with development and implementation of the garden.

BACKGROUND

In the Civic Center area, there are several vacant City-owned properties. Community Services and Public Works staff worked together to investigate the possibility of converting these unused parcels into community gardens.

Staff researched other cities that operate community gardens, met with a resident who had organized gardens in other cities and investigated which parcels would work for this purpose. From the research, a proposal (attachment A) and cost estimate (attachment B) were developed.

DISCUSSION

Staff is proposing that the property at the corner of Garden Grove Boulevard and 8<sup>th</sup> Street be used for a community garden. The property is under the ownership of the Housing Authority, and is large enough to accommodate 35 parcels (10 ft. by 10 ft.). Parcels would be rented to residents at a cost of \$45 per year. Renters would be required to cultivate the land, and keep it in good order.

Staff proposes to work closely with community members to insure the sustainability of the garden, and has established a working relationship with a resident who is a veteran farmer and has developed similar garden projects in the cities of Long Beach and Anaheim. The volunteer resident will work closely with grassroots organizations such as the Youth Environmental Leader Program (YEL), Organic Farmer Girls Forever (OFGF), and Green Project to develop and initiate plans for the garden.

FISCAL IMPACT

There are neighborhood funds available through the Community Development Department for the establishment of the garden. The expense of planting and

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tending the garden would be borne by the renters. If all parcels were rented, revenue is projected at \$1,575 per year, which would offset minor ongoing expenses.

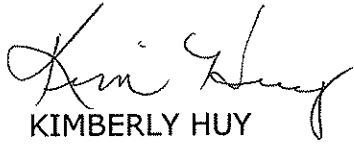
COMMUNITY VISION IMPLEMENTATION

This project meets a goal of the Community Vision, which is "...to make greater use of volunteers for park...development." It will also "preserve and enhance open space..."

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council:

- Approve the concept of the Community Garden, and
- Direct staff to proceed with its implementation.

  
KIMBERLY HUY  
Director

  
By: Pilar Alcivar McCoy  
Recreation and Human Services Manager

**Recommended for Approval**

  
Matthew Ferial  
City Manager

Attachment A: Community Garden Proposal  
Attachment B: Estimated Start-Up Expenditures