



SPUR

San Francisco | San Jose | Oakland

June 9, 2015

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
70 West Hedding Street, 10th Floor
San Jose, CA 95110

Dear Supervisors:

On behalf of SPUR, I am writing to express our support for the resolution being considered at the Board of Supervisors meeting today allowing the establishment of urban agriculture incentive zones within the cities of Santa Clara County.

As we highlighted in SPUR's 2012 report, *Public Harvest*, urban agriculture provides many benefits to residents in urban areas including: education about fresh, healthy food and the effort it takes to produce it; environmental benefits for the city; community-building; vibrant green spaces and recreation; and a modest source of economic development.

This resolution will allow the cities of Santa Clara County to proceed in implementing urban agriculture incentive zones within their boundaries, should they choose to do so. This step, which is required by state law AB 551, will help move this policy forward within the cities while the county continues moving forward on the implementation of an urban agriculture incentive zone in the county's unincorporated areas.

In passing this resolution, Santa Clara County would be pioneering the implementation process for other counties across the state. The county is well positioned to take this leadership role and we encourage the Board to continue moving forward on establishing these incentives for urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

Eli Zigas
Food and Agriculture Policy Director

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