

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: June 18, 2012

SUBJECT: Letter to the Regents of the University of California supporting urban agriculture academic initiatives and community partnerships at the Gill Tract

REPORT BY: Beth Pollard, City Manager

COUNCIL MEMBER THOMSEN AND WILE RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council authorize the Mayor to sign the attached letter to the Regents of the University of California, as well as the President of the University of California and the Chancellor of the University of California Berkeley, expressing support for University academic initiatives and community partnerships at the Gill Tract.
2. Receive a verbal status report from the Council Subcommittee of Council Members Thomsen and Wile.

BACKGROUND

At the meeting of May 21, 2012, the City Council established a Council Subcommittee comprised of Council Members Thomsen and Wile to work on issues related to future uses of the Gill Tract including but not limited to urban agriculture, gardening, and/or farming, with a status report to the Council on a monthly basis, and for the subcommittee to work with staff to prepare a letter to the University of California Regents regarding interests for the Gill Tract for the City Council to review at a future meeting.

The subcommittee has met and is recommending the attached letter be sent to the Regents. The subcommittee further recommends that the letter be sent to the President of the University of California, as well as the Chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

The letter expresses support for urban agriculture possibilities that may lead to breakthroughs in global sustainability, nutrition, and business models that are well-grounded in local interests and needs.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

Attachments

1. Draft letter to UC Regents, UC President and UC Berkeley Chancellor