



April 20, 2022

Parks & Recreation Board
San Diego, Ca

Dear P&R Board,

I am writing to support for the P&R Board to vote yes to amend the Linda Vista Community Park's General Development Plan to include the Linda Vista Community Garden.

As part of my work with Farmer D, I have been involved with the planning and development of community gardens, community-based farms and agrihoods around the country. There is a growing trend in urban agriculture and utilizing public land to bring more equitable opportunities for people to grow food that is culturally relevant for them, to create gathering spaces in these gardens to share recipes, growing methods, stories and to learn from each other. I believe that the Linda Vista Community Garden will be a beautiful precedent that shows how positively impactful cultivating a community garden in a programmed park space will enhance the quality of life for everyone that participates, whether actively or passively.

Bayside Community Center has spent precious resources in time, money and energy to advocate and lead in getting this community garden implemented. As we all are well aware of, non-profits are typically spread thin in capacity and funding. As a city and public entity, we should work hard to find ways to support and elevate these organizations that are pushing to create an asset and amenity that will benefit and support the community.

There are great precedents, such as in Austin, Texas, where the city provides the platform and makes it easy for community gardens to be built and programmed on city land. San Diego community members and non-profit organizations have been working hard the last couple of decades to create a highly functioning food system. Creating more spaces for growing and learning will support these efforts and have a triple bottom line of impact.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I truly hope that this process is paving the way for an easier point of entry to develop future community gardens on public lands.

Sincerely,

Kasi Munoz
Director of Design & Operations