



AGENDA ITEM

Public Utilities Commission

City and County of San Francisco



DEPARTMENT External Affairs AGENDA NO. 15
MEETING DATE October 11, 2011

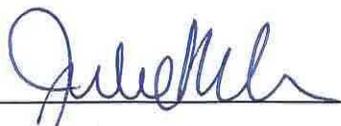
Urban Agriculture Pilot Program: Regular Calendar
Project Manager: Juliet Ellis

Authorize the General Manager to Establish an Urban Agriculture Pilot Program on SFPUC Lands in San Francisco and Conduct a Feasibility Assessment on Proposed Pilot Sites

Summary of Proposed Commission Action:	Authorize the General Manager to establish an Urban Agriculture Pilot program on SFPUC lands in San Francisco, and conduct a feasibility assessment of establishing urban agriculture on proposed pilot sites.
Background:	<p>In connection with the operation of its water, wastewater and power systems, the SFPUC owns title to a wide range of property types both inside and outside the City and County of San Francisco. The Commission is responsible for managing these properties for the benefit of its ratepayers. Leases on SFPUC lands are managed by the SFPUC Real Estate Bureau using the "Commercial Land Management Operating Manual" guidelines. All leases and sales are subject to approval by the Commission.</p> <p>On July 9, 2009 the Mayor of San Francisco issued Executive Order 09-03, San Francisco Healthy and Sustainable Food for San Francisco, which directed all City Departments to take actions consistent with the goal of fostering local food production in San Francisco. The Executive Order required all departments having jurisdiction over property to conduct an audit of their land suitable for or actively used for food producing gardens or other agricultural purposes. In January 2010 SFPUC staff complied with Executive Order 09-03 by conducting an audit of SFPUC lands suitable for or actively used for food producing or other agricultural purposes and submitted a report with the findings to the Mayor's office and the Office of Food Systems.</p> <p>In April 2011, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Ordinance which amended the zoning code to allow small-scale commercial farming in areas of San Francisco previously deemed residential. To assess how the SFPUC could further support the urban agriculture policy direction of the City and County of San Francisco, staff</p>

APPROVAL:

DEPARTMENT /
BUREAU



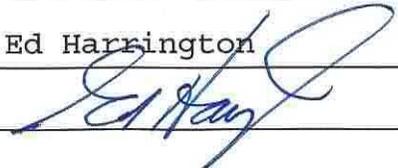
COMMISSION
SECRETARY

Mike Housh

FINANCE

Todd L. Rydstrom

GENERAL
MANAGER

Ed Harrington


Urban Agriculture Pilot Program**Commission Meeting Date:** October 11, 2011

	<p>recently completed a deeper analysis of all in-city properties to assess the compatibility of food growing as a secondary use. Issues such as location, accessibility, lot size, compatibility with other existing and planned uses, and neighborhood impact were considered. The analysis identified two potential areas surrounding College Hill Reservoir and the Southeast Treatment Plant as candidates for an Urban Agriculture Pilot Program.</p> <p>Before establishing an urban agriculture pilot program on the proposed sites, a feasibility assessment is recommended to determine if food growing is a compatible use. Additionally, modifications to the "Commercial Land Management Operating Manual" are necessary to allow non-profits growing food for commercial purposes on SPUC lands to receive discounted lease rates.</p>
Environmental Review:	Any necessary environmental review would be conducted as part of the feasibility assessment.
Schedule	The feasibility assessment will be completed by Spring 2012. If the feasibility assessment determines that food growing is a compatible use on the proposed sites, leases will be brought back for Commission approval.
Budget and Costs	It is assumed the cost of establishing the Urban Agriculture Pilot Program and conducting the feasibility assessment will be minimal.
Recommendation:	SFPUC staff recommends that the Commission adopt the attached Resolution.
Attachment:	1. SFPUC Resolution

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

City and County of San Francisco

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, In connection with the operation of its water, wastewater and power systems, the SFPUC owns title to a wide range of property types both inside and outside the City and County of San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, The Commission of the SFPUC is responsible for managing these properties for the benefit of its ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, On July 9, 2009 the Mayor of San Francisco issued Executive Order 09-03, San Francisco Healthy and Sustainable Food for San Francisco, which declared San Francisco's commitment to increasing the amount of healthy and sustainable food and required all departments having jurisdiction over property to conduct an audit of their land suitable for or actively used for food producing gardens or other agricultural purposes; and

WHEREAS, In January 2010 SFPUC staff complied with Executive Order 09-03 by conducting an audit of SFPUC lands suitable for or actively used for food producing or other agricultural purposes and submitting a report with the findings to the Mayor's office and the Office of Food Systems; and

WHEREAS, in April 2011, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Ordinance which amended the zoning code to allow small-scale commercial farming in areas of San Francisco previously deemed residential; and

WHEREAS, In support of the San Francisco Healthy and Sustainable Food Executive Order and the Urban Agriculture Ordinance, and to advance the SFPUC's Community Benefits Policy, the SFPUC seeks to develop an Urban Agriculture Pilot Program which encourages urban agriculture on SFPUC lands where feasible; and

WHEREAS, SFPUC staff has conducted a preliminary analysis of the 2010 audit of SFPUC lands and identified two potential areas surrounding College Hill Reservoir and the Southeast Treatment Plant as candidates for an Urban Agriculture Pilot Program; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this Commission authorizes the General Manager to establish an Urban Agriculture Pilot program on SFPUC lands in San Francisco; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Commission authorizes the General Manager of the SFPUC to conduct a feasibility assessment on the two potential pilot sites surrounding College Hill Reservoir and the Southeast Treatment Plant to determine whether food growing is a compatible use; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that SFPUC Commercial Land Management Operating Manual be updated to allow non-profits growing food for commercial purposes on SFPUC lands to receive discounted lease rates.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its meeting of _____ *October 11, 2011* _____

Secretary, Public Utilities Commission