



Jesse Arreguín
Councilmember, District 4

CONSENT CALENDAR
June 4, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Jesse Arreguín
Subject: The Victory Garden Foundation: Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds to General Fund and Grant of Such Funds

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution approving the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$1,000 in total to the Victory Garden Foundation for the purpose of the Climate Challenges, Climate Solutions Internship Program at Berkeley High School. Funds shall be relinquished to the City’s General Fund for this purpose from the discretionary Council Office Budgets of Councilmember Arreguin and any other Councilmembers who wish to contribute towards the total.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

No General Fund impact; all funds will be surplus funds relinquished from specified Council Office Budget discretionary accounts.

BACKGROUND

Spearheaded by the Victory Garden Foundation, the Climate Challenges, Climate Solutions Internship program is a collaboration between Berkeley High School’s Green Team, the City of Berkeley, the Berkeley Climate Action Coalition, 350Bay Area and Transition Berkeley.

The Climate Challenges, Climate Solutions Internship program recently received a \$1,000 grant from the Berkeley Realty Association to help kick-start the program, but it needs \$1,000 more to launch the program. The funds will be used to pay students a stipend for their efforts, and toward materials for the various projects they will undertake during the internship program.

The program seeks to work with four students to educate them about climate problems and solutions through hands-on projects, and empower them to become more effective environmental leaders at their school and in the community.

Project Goals and Activities: The students will be meeting 8-10 hours per week during the summertime to engage in hands-on activities related to climate challenges and solutions, in collaboration with project partners, individuals and organizations

working in the Bay Area's climate action and gardening movement. The program will include the following activities:

Hands-on Gardening Projects: The interns will work with the Victory Garden Foundation in their community gardens, with the City of Berkeley on restoration projects and with the Climate Action Coalition's land use committee.

Learning Opportunities with 350Bay Area: This grassroots activism group is working on a number of campaigns related to the global fight to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The students will have an opportunity to work directly with volunteers and staff on ways that they can speak out about these issues with policy makers and the general public.

Outdoor Adventures: The summer internship will offer opportunities for first-hand experiences with the natural world, including hiking on Bay Area trails.

Education about Climate Solutions: The youth will be taking surveys and photos of youth engaged in climate solutions and getting their perspectives about the climate crisis, working with Transition Berkeley and the Climate Action Coalition.

Planning for next year's Green Team: The interns will take some time to plan for next year's Green Team (environmental club) at Berkeley High to ensure that the 2013-14 school year is well-organized – including brainstorming about activities, fundraising for and recruitment to the club.

CONTACT PERSON

Jesse Arreguin, Councilmember, District 4 981-7140

Attachments:

1. Resolution
2. Victory Garden Foundation Letter

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF SURPLUS FUNDS FROM THE OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNTS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS FOR A GRANT TO PROVIDE PUBLIC SERVICES FOR A MUNICIPAL PUBLIC PURPOSE

WHEREAS, Councilmember Jesse Arreguín has surplus funds in his office expenditure account (budget code 010-0242-410); and

WHEREAS, a California non-profit tax exempt corporation Victory Garden Foundation seeks funds in the amount not to exceed \$1,000 for the Climate Challenges, Climate Solutions Internship Program; and

WHEREAS, the internship program will serve four Berkeley High students, educating them about climate problems and solutions through hands-on projects, and empowering them to become more effective environmental leaders at their school and in the community.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that funds relinquished by the Mayor and Councilmembers from their Council Office Budget up to a total amount of \$1,000 shall be granted to the Victory Garden Foundation to fund the Climate Challenges, Climate Solutions Internship Program.



6528 Raymond Street * Oakland CA 94609 * 800.971.3006

Berkeley City Council
2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704

Dear City Council members:

Greetings! I am sending you this funding request to you (and every City Council member) for \$100-200, to contribute to the Climate Challenges Climate Solutions internship program with Berkeley High School students. We received a \$1,000 grant from the Berkeley Realty Association to create the program, am are seeking funding for the rest of the amount that it will take to run this program.

About the Project: The Climate Challenges Internship program is a new initiative being spearheaded by the Victory Garden Foundation and is a collaboration between Berkeley High School's Green Team, the City of Berkeley (through Shallon Allen), the Berkeley Climate Action Coalition, 350Bay Area and Transition Berkeley. As Project Coordinator I will work with four students to **educate** them about climate problems and solutions through hands-on projects; and **empower** them to become more effective environmental **leaders** at their school and in the community.

Project Goals and Activities: The students will be meeting 8-10 hours per week during the summertime to engage in hands-on activities related to climate challenges and solutions, in collaboration with project partners and movers and shakers from the Bay Area's climate action and gardening movement. The program will include the following activities:

Hands-on Gardening Projects: The interns will work with the Victory Garden Foundation in their community gardens, and with the City of Berkeley on restoration projects involving native plants in public spaces.

Learning Opportunities with 350Bay Area: This grassroots activism group is working on a number of campaigns related to the global fight to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The students will have an opportunity to work directly with volunteers and staff on ways that they can speak out about these issues with policy makers and the general public.

Outdoor Adventures: The summer internship will offer opportunities for first-hand experiences with the natural world, including a mountain biking trip with Trips for Kids with 6-8 more of their peers and hiking on Bay Area trails.

Education about Climate Solutions: The youth will be taking surveys and photos of youth engaged in climate solutions and getting their perspectives about the climate crisis, working with Transition Berkeley and the Climate Action Coalition;

Planning for next year's Green Team: The interns will take some time to plan for next year's Green Team (environmental club) at Berkeley High to ensure that the 2013-14 school year is well-organized – including brainstorming about activities, fundraising for and recruitment to the club.

Project Needs and Benefits:

The climate crisis is already affecting individual communities from around the world, from victims of extreme weather events such as Hurricane Sandy to rising sea levels. But the generation that will be affected the most from climate change is our youth. Thus it is crucial to expose youth with meaningful opportunities for education and leadership about the climate challenges and solutions. The Bay Area and specifically Berkeley is a hotbed for climate action. The Climate Action Coalition, 350Bay Area and the Transition Movements have emerged as lead grassroots organizers in local and national efforts; while hands-on projects with organic gardening have emerged as primary solution in the fight against climate change and our health in general.

The potential for youth engagement in climate solutions, both in their school and out in the community at large, is huge, and the time is ripe for more youth involvement. Berkeley High School's Green Academy, comprised mainly of underserved students, has been exposed to these groups and climate issues only on a limited level, both through their academic classes and Green Team. Many youth have already expressed a great interest in this internship; Green Team member Sarah Mosely said, *"I would really love to participate in such an internship. I want my school to be more eco-friendly, and make a difference in my community. I want to see changes happen, as I'm really concerned about the climate crisis!* Thank you so much in advance for your support and I look forward to speaking with you soon about this request.

Sincerely,

Susan Silber, Project Coordinator, Climate Challenges, Climate Solutions Internship Program

Susansilber07@gmail.com

