

"Environmental Committee - Urban Agriculture"

Gabrielle Weeks

to:

gloria.harper

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Cc:

"Broc Coward", "Suja Lowenthal", "Coby Skye", donna, "Kelli Johnson", "James Johnson", "Michael Clements", "Patrick O'Donnell", "Bridget Sramek", "Larry Rich"

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Gloria and all,

The Sierra Club is supportive of allowing and promoting urban agriculture in Long Beach, and for having consistent zoning so that it's accessible to all residents. This should include policies that not only encourage residents to grow their own fruits and vegetables, but also have a reasonable number of goats, chickens and bees, so long as they do not create a nuisance to their neighbors. Given how many other cities have adopted ordinances that promote urban agriculture rather than stifle it as our current city ordinances do, it should be easy to emulate a progressive ordinance for our city that improves our sustainability while protecting the public.

Our board did research and asked local people like Donna Marykwes and Kelli Johnson about their experiences with urban agriculture. After talking to our members in Seattle, Santa Monica, LA and other cities that have adopted sensible urban agriculture ordinances, we feel comfortable that goats and fowl will be no more trouble than the cats and dogs people are already used to. Probably less trouble. My neighbor's clucking chickens won't be nearly as noisy as one barking dog.

<http://seattletilth.org/learn/resources-1/city-chickens/citychickensfaq>

City Councilman Terry O'Day and his wife Tiffany keep chickens in their small Santa Monica yard. We looked at those, checked out the yard, asked lots of questions. You may know that LA Councilman Bill Rosendahl also has chickens.

I look forward to zoning in my city that allows chickens, no roosters, bees like NYC and goats.

Gabrielle Weeks

Chair, Long Beach Area Group, Sierra Club