July 26, 2017

***Re: Work With Us To Keep Our Gardens Open!***

Dear Los Angeles City Councilmembers,

Last year we voiced our strong concerns about the how the LADWP water rate increase to the “Schedule F” rate would impact community gardens all across this City. What we feared is coming true. Simply put, the almost 300% increase the Council approved last year has begun to hit our low-income neighbors, friends and elderly community members the hardest. Without immediate city intervention, this water rate increase threatens the very existence of many gardens, especially in underserved neighborhoods, and will deny people the opportunity to put food on the table and provide for their families. We believe by ***doing nothing*** to ease the difficulty caused by this rate hike contradicts the many of the efforts that the Council and Mayor have made in recent years to promote community gardens, urban agriculture and urban greening efforts in general.

Many of you have stood with us when we broke ground at our beloved gardens. However, despite the Council’s recognition of the numerous community benefits community gardens offer, there has never been true financial and infrastructure support dedicated to ensure to community gardens survive. **As we continue to do our part to conserve water and raise funds to pay our water bills, we ask for Council leadership in identifying long-term support to keep our gardens open for all to enjoy**.

Signed,

Gardener Name Community Garden

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