

November 19, 2015

Sarah Eckhardt
Travis County Judge
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, TX 78767

Re: Letter of Support for Green Gate Farms

Dear Judge Eckhardt:

We, members of the Farmland Preservation and Access Working Group of the Sustainable Food Policy Board, are writing to you on behalf of Green Gate Farms, an award-winning certified organic, community-based farm in east Austin that is being threatened with significant reductions or closure because of development plans.

Our group came together several years ago because we are alarmed by the farmland that is disappearing all around our community, as if it had little value until the time comes for it to be put to "good use" as a location for homes and stores. Our community does need new homes and stores, but we also need local farms. We are working to help our community decide that it is important to preserve farmland for sustainable, regional food production and to increase access to land for food producers. This current threat to Green Gate Farms reflects an unquestioned trend for one-sided commercial development that is endangering our farmland and diminishing our regional food production capacity.

In mid-March of 2015, an Arizona-based manufactured home developer, Roberts Resorts, bought 250 acres of land in Travis County which encompasses Green Gate Farm's five acres and its low-income neighborhoods, including Hidden Valley and High Meadows. When Roberts Resorts revealed its site plan during its first community meeting in April, the farm was not included as part of the plan. Instead, the developer planned to replace existing growing fields and green space with a gated complex for luxury RV's and manufactured homes.

Green Gate Farms is a one-of-a-kind Austin icon:

- It is a certified organic vegetable, flower, and livestock farm open to the community and close to the community.
- It is located in a historic setting on Austin's eastside; the Swedish barn and farmhouse were built by the Bergstrom family 113 years ago.
- It has served as a creative center for artists ranging from Matthew McConaughey to the Cohen Brothers.
- The current farm, founded by former public health experts, focuses on feeding people of all incomes and community engagement.

City of Austin residents have recognized the need for sustainable food systems in "Imagine Austin", a 30-year plan for continued development. **This plan lists 8 priority programs and Green Gate Farms FULFILLS ALL IMAGINE AUSTIN GOALS,** particularly Healthy Austin, Green Infrastructure, Workforce Development, and Creative Economy.

We are excited to hear about the possibility of negotiating a Conservation Easement through the Travis County Conservation Easement Bond Program and strongly encourage groups involved to pursue this avenue.

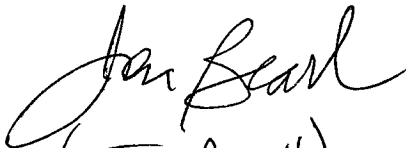
Please join us in this community-wide effort to preserve Austin's farmland. At this moment the threat is to Green Gate Farms. If nothing is done, the loss of this emerald in our community will be just an example of much more to come. If we do not preserve our farmland, it will be lost. Is that the future community that we want? According to Imagine Austin, it is not.

Please look into this matter and consider taking a stand to support farmland and local food production as a real priority for Austin and Travis County. Please join the effort to save Green Gate Farms.

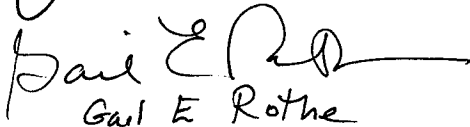
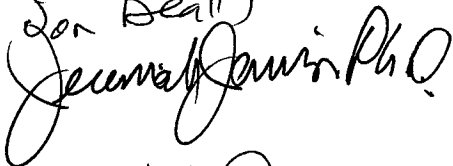
Sincerely,



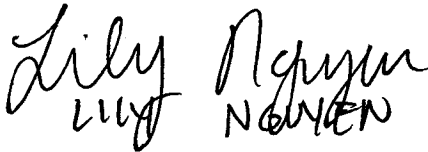
Adrienne Haschke



(Jon Beall)



Gail E. Rothe



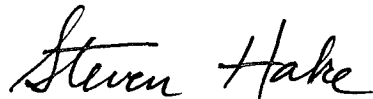
Lily NGUYEN



Ronda Rutledge



Evan Driscoll



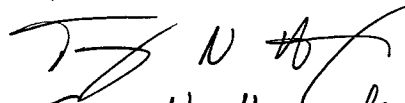
Steven R. Hake



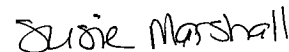
Julie Zimmerman, Agri Life Extension



Patricia Mancure



Tony N. Hernandez



Sue Beckwith



Felipe Camacho

November 19, 2015

Gerald Daugherty
Travis County Commissioner
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, TX 78767

Re: Letter of Support for Green Gate Farms

Dear Commissioner Daugherty:

We, members of the Farmland Preservation and Access Working Group of the Sustainable Food Policy Board, are writing to you on behalf of Green Gate Farms, an award-winning certified organic, community-based farm in east Austin that is being threatened with significant reductions or closure because of development plans.

Our group came together several years ago because we are alarmed by the farmland that is disappearing all around our community, as if it had little value until the time comes for it to be put to "good use" as a location for homes and stores. Our community does need new homes and stores, but we also need local farms. We are working to help our community decide that it is important to preserve farmland for sustainable, regional food production and to increase access to land for food producers. This current threat to Green Gate Farms reflects an unquestioned trend for one-sided commercial development that is endangering our farmland and diminishing our regional food production capacity.

In mid-March of 2015, an Arizona-based manufactured home developer, Roberts Resorts, bought 250 acres of land in Travis County which encompasses Green Gate Farm's five acres and its low-income neighborhoods, including Hidden Valley and High Meadows. When Roberts Resorts revealed its site plan during its first community meeting in April, the farm was not included as part of the plan. Instead, the developer planned to replace existing growing fields and green space with a gated complex for luxury RV's and manufactured homes.

Green Gate Farms is a one-of-a-kind Austin icon:

- It is a certified organic vegetable, flower, and livestock farm open to the community and close to the community.
- It is located in a historic setting on Austin's eastside; the Swedish barn and farmhouse were built by the Bergstrom family 113 years ago.
- It has served as a creative center for artists ranging from Matthew McConaughey to the Cohen Brothers.
- The current farm, founded by former public health experts, focuses on feeding people of all incomes and community engagement.

City of Austin residents have recognized the need for sustainable food systems in "Imagine Austin", a 30-year plan for continued development. **This plan lists 8 priority programs and Green Gate Farms FULFILLS ALL IMAGINE AUSTIN GOALS,** particularly Healthy Austin, Green Infrastructure, Workforce Development, and Creative Economy.

We are excited to hear about the possibility of negotiating a Conservation Easement through the Travis County Conservation Easement Bond Program and strongly encourage groups involved to pursue this avenue.



Please join us in this community-wide effort to preserve Austin's farmland. At this moment the threat is to Green Gate Farms. If nothing is done, the loss of this emerald in our community will be just an example of much more to come. If we do not preserve our farmland, it will be lost. Is that the future community that we want? According to Imagine Austin, it is not.

Please look into this matter and consider taking a stand to support farmland and local food production as a real priority for Austin and Travis County. Please join the effort to save Green Gate Farms.

Sincerely,

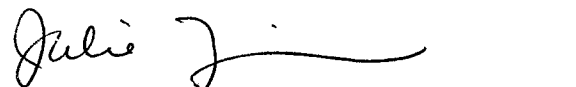

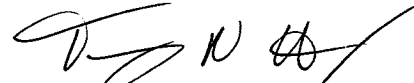


Adrienne Elise Haschke


(Jon Beall)
Gail E. Rothe
LILY NGUYEN

Ronda Rutledge
Ronda Rutledge

Felipe Camacho
Felipe Camacho


Steven R. Hake
Julie Zimmerman, AgriLife Extension
Patricia Moncure

Tony N. Hernandez

Sue Marshall

Sue Beckwith
Sue Beckwith

Evan Driscoll
Evan Driscoll

November 19, 2015

Margaret Gómez
Travis County Commissioner
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, TX 78767

Re: Letter of Support for Green Gate Farms

Dear Commissioner Gómez:

We, members of the Farmland Preservation and Access Working Group of the Sustainable Food Policy Board, are writing to you on behalf of Green Gate Farms, an award-winning certified organic, community-based farm in east Austin that is being threatened with significant reductions or closure because of development plans.

Our group came together several years ago because we are alarmed by the farmland that is disappearing all around our community, as if it had little value until the time comes for it to be put to “good use” as a location for homes and stores. Our community does need new homes and stores, but we also need local farms. We are working to help our community decide that it is important to preserve farmland for sustainable, regional food production and to increase access to land for food producers. This current threat to Green Gate Farms reflects an unquestioned trend for one-sided commercial development that is endangering our farmland and diminishing our regional food production capacity.

In mid-March of 2015, an Arizona-based manufactured home developer, Roberts Resorts, bought 250 acres of land in Travis County which encompasses Green Gate Farm’s five acres and its low-income neighborhoods, including Hidden Valley and High Meadows. When Roberts Resorts revealed its site plan during its first community meeting in April, the farm was not included as part of the plan. Instead, the developer planned to replace existing growing fields and green space with a gated complex for luxury RV’s and manufactured homes.

Green Gate Farms is a one-of-a-kind Austin icon:

- It is a certified organic vegetable, flower, and livestock farm open to the community and close to the community.
- It is located in a historic setting on Austin’s eastside; the Swedish barn and farmhouse were built by the Bergstrom family 113 years ago.
- It has served as a creative center for artists ranging from Matthew McConaughey to the Cohen Brothers.
- The current farm, founded by former public health experts, focuses on feeding people of all incomes and community engagement.

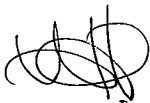
City of Austin residents have recognized the need for sustainable food systems in “Imagine Austin”, a 30-year plan for continued development. **This plan lists 8 priority programs and Green Gate Farms FULFILLS ALL IMAGINE AUSTIN GOALS,** particularly Healthy Austin, Green Infrastructure, Workforce Development, and Creative Economy.

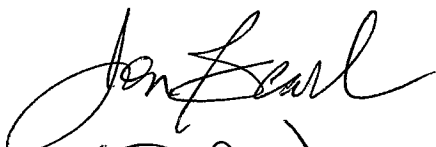
We are excited to hear about the possibility of negotiating a Conservation Easement through the Travis County Conservation Easement Bond Program and strongly encourage groups involved to pursue this avenue.

Please join us in this community-wide effort to preserve Austin's farmland. At this moment the threat is to Green Gate Farms. If nothing is done, the loss of this emerald in our community will be just an example of much more to come. If we do not preserve our farmland, it will be lost. Is that the future community that we want? According to Imagine Austin, it is not.

Please look into this matter and consider taking a stand to support farmland and local food production as a real priority for Austin and Travis County. Please join the effort to save Green Gate Farms.

Sincerely,


Adrienne Elise Haschke

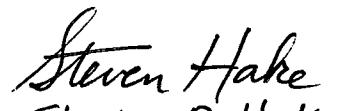

(Jon Ball)
Jeremiah Jerwin Ph.D.

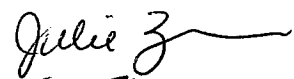

Gail E. Rothe



LILY NGUYEN

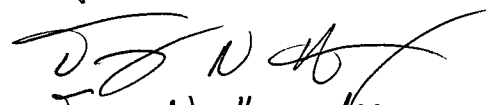
Ronda Rutledge
Ronda Rutledge

Felipe Camacho
Felipe Camacho


Steven R. Hake


Julie Zimmerman, AgriLife Extension


Patricia Monure


Tony N. Hernandez

Ernie Marshall

Sue Beckwith
Sue Beckwith

Evan Driscoll
Evan Driscoll

November 19, 2015

Ron Davis
Travis County Commissioner
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, TX 78767

Re: Letter of Support for Green Gate Farms

Dear Commissioner Davis:

We, members of the Farmland Preservation and Access Working Group of the Sustainable Food Policy Board, are writing to you on behalf of Green Gate Farms, an award-winning certified organic, community-based farm in east Austin that is being threatened with significant reductions or closure because of development plans.

Our group came together several years ago because we are alarmed by the farmland that is disappearing all around our community, as if it had little value until the time comes for it to be put to "good use" as a location for homes and stores. Our community does need new homes and stores, but we also need local farms. We are working to help our community decide that it is important to preserve farmland for sustainable, regional food production and to increase access to land for food producers. This current threat to Green Gate Farms reflects an unquestioned trend for one-sided commercial development that is endangering our farmland and diminishing our regional food production capacity.

In mid-March of 2015, an Arizona-based manufactured home developer, Roberts Resorts, bought 250 acres of land in Travis County which encompasses Green Gate Farm's five acres and its low-income neighborhoods, including Hidden Valley and High Meadows. When Roberts Resorts revealed its site plan during its first community meeting in April, the farm was not included as part of the plan. Instead, the developer planned to replace existing growing fields and green space with a gated complex for luxury RV's and manufactured homes.

Green Gate Farms is a one-of-a-kind Austin icon:

- It is a certified organic vegetable, flower, and livestock farm open to the community and close to the community.
- It is located in a historic setting on Austin's eastside; the Swedish barn and farmhouse were built by the Bergstrom family 113 years ago.
- It has served as a creative center for artists ranging from Matthew McConaughey to the Cohen Brothers.
- The current farm, founded by former public health experts, focuses on feeding people of all incomes and community engagement.

City of Austin residents have recognized the need for sustainable food systems in "Imagine Austin", a 30-year plan for continued development. **This plan lists 8 priority programs and Green Gate Farms FULFILLS ALL IMAGINE AUSTIN GOALS,** particularly Healthy Austin, Green Infrastructure, Workforce Development, and Creative Economy.

We are excited to hear about the possibility of negotiating a Conservation Easement through the Travis County Conservation Easement Bond Program and strongly encourage groups involved to pursue this avenue.

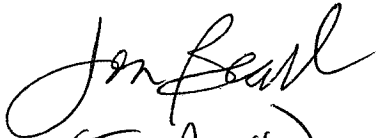
Please join us in this community-wide effort to preserve Austin's farmland. At this moment the threat is to Green Gate Farms. If nothing is done, the loss of this emerald in our community will be just an example of much more to come. If we do not preserve our farmland, it will be lost. Is that the future community that we want? According to Imagine Austin, it is not.

Please look into this matter and consider taking a stand to support farmland and local food production as a real priority for Austin and Travis County. Please join the effort to save Green Gate Farms.

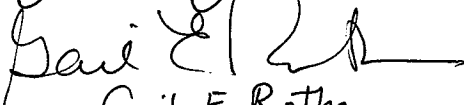
Sincerely,



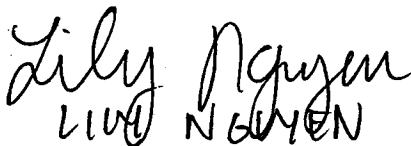
Adrienne Elise Haschke



(Jon Beall)



Gail E. Rothe



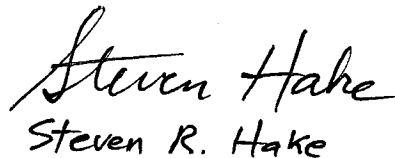
LILY NGUYEN




Ronda Rutledge



Felipe Camacho



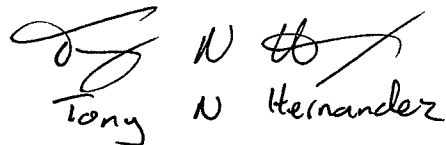
Steven R. Hake



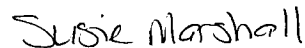
Julie Zimmerman, AgriLife Extension



Patricia Monure



Tony N. Hernandez



Susie Marshall



Sue Beckwith



Evan Driscoll

November 19, 2015

Brigid Shea
Travis County Commissioner
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, TX 78767

Re: Letter of Support for Green Gate Farms

Dear Commissioner Shea:

We, members of the Farmland Preservation and Access Working Group of the Sustainable Food Policy Board, are writing to you on behalf of Green Gate Farms, an award-winning certified organic, community-based farm in east Austin that is being threatened with significant reductions or closure because of development plans.

Our group came together several years ago because we are alarmed by the farmland that is disappearing all around our community, as if it had little value until the time comes for it to be put to "good use" as a location for homes and stores. Our community does need new homes and stores, but we also need local farms. We are working to help our community decide that it is important to preserve farmland for sustainable, regional food production and to increase access to land for food producers. This current threat to Green Gate Farms reflects an unquestioned trend for one-sided commercial development that is endangering our farmland and diminishing our regional food production capacity.

In mid-March of 2015, an Arizona-based manufactured home developer, Roberts Resorts, bought 250 acres of land in Travis County which encompasses Green Gate Farm's five acres and its low-income neighborhoods, including Hidden Valley and High Meadows. When Roberts Resorts revealed its site plan during its first community meeting in April, the farm was not included as part of the plan. Instead, the developer planned to replace existing growing fields and green space with a gated complex for luxury RV's and manufactured homes.

Green Gate Farms is a one-of-a-kind Austin icon:

- It is a certified organic vegetable, flower, and livestock farm open to the community and close to the community.
- It is located in a historic setting on Austin's eastside; the Swedish barn and farmhouse were built by the Bergstrom family 113 years ago.
- It has served as a creative center for artists ranging from Matthew McConaughey to the Cohen Brothers.
- The current farm, founded by former public health experts, focuses on feeding people of all incomes and community engagement.

City of Austin residents have recognized the need for sustainable food systems in "Imagine Austin", a 30-year plan for continued development. **This plan lists 8 priority programs and Green Gate Farms FULFILLS ALL IMAGINE AUSTIN GOALS,** particularly Healthy Austin, Green Infrastructure, Workforce Development, and Creative Economy.

We are excited to hear about the possibility of negotiating a Conservation Easement through the Travis County Conservation Easement Bond Program and strongly encourage groups involved to pursue this avenue.

Please join us in this community-wide effort to preserve Austin's farmland. At this moment the threat is to Green Gate Farms. If nothing is done, the loss of this emerald in our community will be just an example of much more to come. If we do not preserve our farmland, it will be lost. Is that the future community that we want? According to Imagine Austin, it is not.

Please look into this matter and consider taking a stand to support farmland and local food production as a real priority for Austin and Travis County. Please join the effort to save Green Gate Farms.

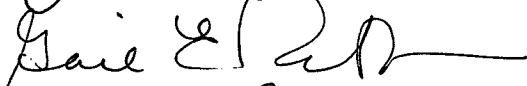
Sincerely,



Adrienne Haschke



(Jan Seal)




Gail E. Rothe



Ronda Rutledge




Evan Driscoll



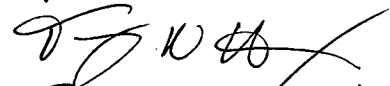
Steven R. Hake



Julie Zimmerman, AgriLife Extension



Patricia Moncure



Tony W. Hernandez



Dixie Marshall



Sue Beckwith



Felipe Camacho