

SP22.01 SBVC Educational Facilities Planning and Implementation

From: Science Division, San Bernardino Valley College

Whereas, The San Bernardino Community College District's (SBCCD) Sustainability Plan¹ declares as one of its goals, to "provide students with a sense of environmental responsibility and the knowledge and skills to address sustainability in their chosen field of work" and San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC) is committed to providing students with "high-quality education" and "innovative instruction, and aims to build a reputation on the "quality of its programs" and "beauty of [its] campus;"² and

Whereas, The Living Lab Garden, also known as "The Biology Garden," is a fundamental instructional resource for high-quality and innovative curriculum for students taking courses and labs, in Biology, and with interdisciplinary applications relating to Architecture, Culinary Arts, Environmental Science, Geography, Geographic Information Systems, Geology, Chemistry, Physics, Nursing, and Mathematics; and

Whereas, The Living Lab Garden is central to multiple areas of SBCCD's Sustainability Plan¹ and it provides SBVC's students, and the community at large, with access to an ecologically vibrant area of biodiverse plants functioning as a food resource for migratory insects and birds, providing nesting and feeding sites for resident bird species and native pollinators, while also serving as a high quality field research at no cost for students and academic programs with limited financial means; and

Whereas, the Living Lab Garden provides a safe and healthy outdoor space for studying, promotes mental health, fosters a sense of belonging and well-being for students, faculty, and staff and it functions as a community resource against air pollution given that the California Air Resources Board (CARB) has identified San Bernardino as an AB 617 community³ where exposure to air pollution must be reduced;

Resolved, that SBCCD and SBVC cease construction of the New Applied Technology Building and redraws its floor plan as the current footprint involves the destruction of a sizeable portion of the Living Lab Garden thus diminishing adherence to SBVC's mission and SBCCD's Sustainability Plan¹ and generating negative impact to current educational activities; and

Resolved, SBCCD and SBVC re-evaluate and significantly improve the collegial consultation process, in light of the detrimental failure associated with the Living Lab Garden, to ensure systematic and frequent input from impacted constituents on ongoing and future building planning, design, and project implementation; and

Resolved, SBCCD and SBVC, recognize outdoor natural resources as a key resource and equal in value to traditional classroom spaces, deliver immediate and comparable mitigation when necessary so that curricular activities and application of diverse and equitable education are expeditiously re-established, and that any mitigation plan and building planning are genuinely integrated with expertise and experience from all impacted constituents as to explicitly support diversity and equity of students, faculty, and staff, to create and preserve an environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable physical and functioning SBVC campus for the community.

¹ SBCCD Sustainability Plan (2012)

² SBVC Mission Statement

³ California Air Resources Board (CARB) Community Air Protection Program (CAPP)