

13-1431

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ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

MOTION

Urban food production in the City is steadily growing as individual residents and community organizations realize the health and environmental benefits of growing food locally. Churches, community clinics and other non-profits are including food production as an alternative approach to landscaping. Public housing developments and schools are pursuing urban food production efforts as well.

Many public housing developments are built in neighborhoods that are in, or adjacent to, "food deserts" - neighborhoods lacking in healthy food options. Encouraging housing developers to provide space for urban food production allows many residents to access healthy food options.

However, a challenge public housing developments and non-profit organizations face in maintaining gardens relates to the rising cost of water. If they can find a way to control the cost of water, then they can effectively implement urban food gardens.

The Department of Water and Power (DWP) currently provides a reduced water rate through its Schedule F water rate provision. The provision applies to community gardens growing food for human consumption on publicly-owned land. Other qualifying uses include food products grown on property dedicated for public uses and operated on a non-profit basis.

Given the growth of urban food production in the City and a desire to further its development, it would be useful to expand the DWP's Schedule F water rate provision to include food production gardens in public housing developments, schools and non-profit institutions not currently covered by the provision. In this manner, the health and environmental benefits of urban food production can reach many residents.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Water and Power be requested to report to the Energy and Environment Committee in 45 days on the feasibility of expanding the Schedule F water rate provision to include food production gardens located in public housing developments, schools and non-profit institutions not currently covered by the provision; and the feasibility of applying a separate water meter to the portion of the parcel dedicated for food production.

PRESENTED BY:

FELIPE FUENTES
Councilmember, 7th District

SECONDED BY:

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ORIGINAL