

October 14, 2010

To: **Foundation for Sustainability and Innovation**
P.O. Box 149
Laguna Beach, CA 92652

Re: **Teaching Aquaponics Project "TAP" JAN 2012 Progress Report**

Greetings,

The grant has, and continues to yield amazingly unexpected results. This month we will ship the Aspen system to the new Food Bank community garden in Sacramento, Calif. Their new greenhouse and year round staff will make the system have a much larger impact than the Aspen Valley High School location. We learned a valuable lesson about "summer break" continuity there. Just when the plants started to take off, everyone left! The aids didn't understand the system and they too were leaving for vacation! So this system was relocated for the summer and a new venue was sought.

During this time an intern, Claire Gonzales who was interested in learning about Aquaponics began working with us to help find a new location (See Attached). Subsequently The Food Bank contacted us and told us about their new community garden and educational programs. (See fourth paragraph in Link)

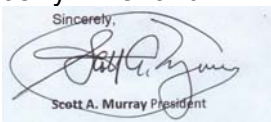
<http://www.sacramentofoodbank.org/programs/food.html>

At the time of this writing we are in the process of shipping the unit to the Food Bank Demonstration Garden to coincide with the build out of their new greenhouse. The garden manager, Bill Maynard, is also the community gardens coordinator for the City of Sacramento. The shipping and set up will exhaust the remaining FSI grant funds and we follow up with the financial report then.

Contact: Bill Maynard
Demonstration Garden Manager
Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services
(916) 456-1980 phone
www.sacramentofoodbank.org

The second AP unit is currently on display at Laguna Koi and will be relocated to another very exciting project Scott and I began working on shortly after setting up the AP system for introduction to the general public at the San Diego Koi Show last winter. This project is for the Encinitas Union School District's new 10 acre Agro Ecology Learning Center. (See attached Koi Show Photo, **e.a.t.** Poster & Press Story.) This by far has exceeded our expectations about our ability to expand the TAP grant's goals.

Regards and thanks again for your generous support,
Jerry Miller and

Sincerely,

Scott A. Murray President

South Coast Resource Conservation & Development Council

4500 Glenwood Drive, Riverside, California CA 92501
(960)682-1380 Office (960)682-3956 Fax (760)805-1380 Cell

Oct. 12, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been involved for several months in a project to set up aquaponics systems for training and education purposes. I worked with a nonprofit group, Teaching Aquaponics Project (TAP), to install a small aquaponics display in a highly visible site to raise awareness of the technology, and eventually train workers to set up and maintain these systems.

While working on this project, I was mentored by experts in the fields of sustainable farming, fisheries and community organizing. I first learned about the science and technology of aquaponics, about how to build and maintain different systems, and its benefits and potential in small-scale community gardens and in large-scale commercial applications. Then, guided by Jerry Miller, I gained experience in working with nonprofits to find a site for an aquaponics display. I visited local nonprofit farms and community gardens and made connections with veterans' groups interested in training vets in aquaponics. I also approached many community organizations to help fund the installation of an aquaponics system.

I had to suspend my involvement with TAP when I went to college this fall, but hope to continue working with them on my holiday and summer breaks.

I feel that aquaponics is not only interesting from a scientific and technological perspective, but will be a growth industry for business and jobs in the future, and could solve some of farming's problems of water and pesticide use. I believe it could someday revolutionize the way farmers bring food to our table, and it's exciting to be a small part of that.

I appreciate the guidance of the TAP team, and look forward to helping them with their mission.

Sincerely,
Claire Gonzales

9470 Queen Oak Court
Elk Grove, CA 95624
(916) 479-5293

School District Education Center Plans Announced - Encinitas, CA Patch

By Anastacia Grenda Email the author September 22, 2011

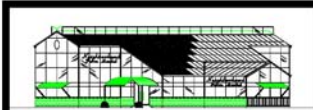
An aquaculture lab, a thriving organic farm that would supply fresh produce for school salad bars, local businesses and the community. An education center where students could learn about solar and wind power. The Encinitas Union School District plot in Encinitas Ranch is potentially fertile ground for all of this, and much more.

Scott A. Murray, an organic farmer for 38 years and leader of Slow Food San Diego, has worked with architect Jerry Miller to create **e.a.t.**, Encinitas Agri-Ecology Training, a conceptual proposal for the vacant 10-acre site off Quail Gardens Drive that the school district aims to develop with facilities money from Proposition P, the bond measure passed last year. Murray presented the concept to the district's school board at its Sept. 20 meeting; the board directed Superintendent Tim Baird to explore a one-year license agreement with Murray to farm the land, with the goal of approving the deal at the October board meeting. "Initially, we started thinking about just growing produce for our main kitchen that would then end up on a child's lunch plate," says Baird, who adds that the district has been holding on to the property in case a new school would need to be built in the future. "But we realized that a number of our schools have expanded into learning outside the classroom, and we have some incredible school gardens. So we started looking at [the site] as a learning campus and that really opened it up."

Murray, who has developed school farms and curriculum plans in Fallbrook and San Pasqual, has given the project a slogan: "Fostering Sustainability Through Education." Teaching children to lead an environmentally conscious lifestyle is just one of the benefits of the site, Murray says. Students could have access to fresh food and learn scientific concepts through lessons at the farm site. He adds that the U.S. Department of Labor projects that 40 percent of new jobs created over the next 20 years will be in agriculture—and since machines play a prominent role in big agriculture, he estimates many of those jobs will be in organic, sustainable operations. "I'm interested in the future of agriculture," Murray says. "We all eat. There's hardly anything we all share, but we all share the need for food on some level."

Murray, who started working on the project a few months ago, says that if the board approves the license agreement, he could start farming on the land after about a month and providing some produce in three months. The site still has several stages of development and bureaucratic processes to go through, so Murray envisions simple row farming for now, with unused district portable buildings being repurposed as classrooms for the site. Eventually, the learning center would take up about three acres of the site, with the remaining seven devoted to farming.

The concept calls for the district to receive some produce from the site for school lunches. More produce could be sold at a farm stand on site, and some could be sold to community partners. (Murray offers Seaside Market and Rimel's Rotisserie as examples.) Because the Proposition P money doesn't cover program costs, it's envisioned that produce sales could be used in that regard. The site would also benefit school campuses with gardens could sell their own produce at the farm stand. Murray adds that extra compost and plants at the district site could be given to individual school gardens. Baird says ultimately the site would be an asset to the overall Encinitas community. In addition to earmarking space for the city's long-talked-about community garden, the farm/center could be part of an educational hub thanks to its proximity to the San Diego Botanic Garden and the San Dieguito Heritage Museum. "This could be an incredibly cool destination point," he says.



Farm Market



Photo Voltaic Covered Parking



Geodesic Class Room "G"



Energy Producing Play Structures

Second Phase Agro-Ecology Learning Center



Encinitas Union School District

RENEWABLE ENERGY GREENHOUSES
 A Division of Environmental Programs
 Planning, Design, Construction, Installation, and Maintenance
 970-954-8530

E.U.S.D.
 760-944-4300

the G.A.T. group
 Ecological & Agricultural Technologies
 Fostering Sustainability through creative development
 South A. Murray 760-888-1285
 James J. Miller 970-954-8485



Hubbs Sea World
 Research Aquaponic Greenhouse "T"



Aquatic Garden "Y"



Wind Assisted Air Supported Greenhouses "U & W"



Rolling Greenhouses



Ben and Jerry at Koi Show



Aquaponic Seedlings Donated by Murray Farms



Grand Daughter Isabelle Enjoying the Show



Summer Harvest



Eden Vardey from Aspen TREE at High School Install



Nick & Jerry Doing the Work!!!!