

## **SPECIAL AGREEMENT FOR PLOTHOLDERS AT GUADALUPE COMMUNITY GARDEN**

I understand that the following guidelines and regulations are specific to the Guadalupe Community Garden and may not apply to other community gardens in the City of San Jose. I acknowledge that this community garden will be irrigated with recycled water, which is served by South Bay Water Recycling.

### **Training**

Recycled water training is mandatory for all plotholders in the Guadalupe Community Garden. The training will be directed by a staff person from the Friends of GRPG who is a certified Site Supervisor and will consist of approximately six (6) hours of classroom presentations. The purpose of the training is to educate gardeners on the safe and effective use of recycled water to irrigate crops and other ornamental plants and explain the special rules that apply. Training will include an introduction to recycled water, an explanation of its similarities and differences from drinking water, an overview of the techniques and strategies necessary to manage a successful plot, and how to avoid making cross-connections between recycled water systems and potable water systems. I understand that I must complete the entire training program and agree to comply with all regulations, before obtaining a plot in the garden.

### **Keys and Access to Water**

The Guadalupe Gardens community garden is a fenced and gated facility. When I have completed the required training and been issued a garden plot, I will be given a key to the site. I am responsible for that key and may not lend it out or duplicate it.

The community garden plots are equipped with quick coupler valves, instead of standard hose bibs, to limit access to the recycled water. Keys to unlock the cover on my quick coupler valve, and quick coupler valve keys (which are used to actually get the water from the valve), are to be stored in the equipment shed located in the common area of the community garden. I understand that special hoses, which are clearly marked for recycled water use and are to be exclusively used with recycled water, are also kept in the equipment shed and are provided for use on site as a reminder that recycled water is being used and is not allowed for drinking purposes. I understand that I will be issued a key to the equipment shed, and it is my responsibility to return the quick coupler valve cover key, special hose, and valve key to this shed each time I leave the garden.

### **General Guidelines**

The California Department of Health Services has established guidelines for specific uses of recycled water in California. By checking each of the following items, I acknowledge that I have read and accept these guidelines:

- I understand that recycled water is NOT allowed for drinking purposes, for washing of hands and produce, or for cooking; however, I can use recycled water to wash wheelbarrows, wet compost, clean garden tools, and irrigate my plot.
- I understand that potable water is available on site for drinking and washing hands and produce.
- I will wash my hands with soap and potable water before consuming my harvest.
- I will wash my harvest thoroughly with potable water prior to consumption.
- I will NOT connect any equipment (e.g., nozzles and hoses) that has been used for recycled water to any potable water supply.
- I understand that if I bring visitors to the community garden, I am responsible for ensuring that they also observe the special rules and regulations for the site.
- I agree that if I bring any irrigation equipment to the garden, other than the ones provided by the Friends of GRPG, I will inform the Site Supervisor, and obtain a tag to identify the equipment for use with recycled water.
- I understand that water, including recycled water, is a vital resource and I should not waste it.
- I will be aware of, and prevent, runoff and ponding in the community garden while irrigating my plot.
- I will NOT modify or change the recycled water system without authorization from the Site Supervisor.

### **Emergency Procedures**

I understand that a City or Friends of GRPG Site Supervisor will not be available on site during all operating hours of the community garden. In case of emergency, I will contact 9-1-1 directly.

### **Violations**

The City of San Jose and Friends of GRPG wish to provide a friendly and safe environment for every plot holder at the Guadalupe Gardens community garden. I understand that I will be removed from the program if I violate any of the special regulations contained in this agreement. I also agree to report any rule violations that I observe to the garden management team and Friends of GRPG so they can be addressed promptly.

### **Exit Interview**

Gardening with recycled water is a unique experience and my input will be valuable to making the Guadalupe Community Garden a better program. I understand that I will be asked to complete an exit interview with the Friends of GRPG upon relinquishing my garden plot. Although this is voluntary, I will try my best to provide comments and share my experience in the Guadalupe Community Gardens.

**I understand and accept the special conditions for the use of recycled water in the Guadalupe Gardens Community Garden.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date