



ALISAL BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES  
CONSTRUYENDO COMUNIDADES SALUDABLES EN ALISAL

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Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SAREP)  
Agricultural Sustainability Institute  
University of California, Davis  
Davis, California

Dear review committee:

Alisal Building Healthy Communities strongly supports the work of the Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association (ALBA) and specifically its planning proposal, "Planning Fresh Food Markets and Incentives in Farm Worker Communities." The work proposed by ALBA reflects an important extension of its work to establish beginning farmer opportunities and market channels that serve both farmers and health-distressed communities.

Alisal Building Healthy Communities (ABHC) is part of a ten year initiative funded by The California Endowment to build the local capacity and leadership necessary for a safe and healthy Alisal. I have enjoyed working with ALBA both as part of the ABHC as well as through the Service Learning Institute at CSUMB. ALBA is struggling through the messy and patient work that a place based community work requires. I support ALBA because of their ability to take on the challenges of bring resident leadership toward systems change.

The work proposed by ALBA will establish both planning processes and actionable plans for expanding access to fresh, healthful fruits and vegetables through commercial and health-related contexts. This has been a challenge in East Salinas. We would like to support ALBA in bringing the same healthful opportunities the coast enjoys to inland East Salinas (and other communities such as Gonzalez, Greenfield and Soledad) in collaborative, sustainable and culturally relevant ways.

In support of this work, ABHC will work with ALBA to develop plans for its continued food systems work in the community by:

- Sustaining public dialogue in the Building Healthy Communities (BHC) process.
- Networking and suggesting agency partners that may contribute to ALBA's work.
- Informing and guiding ALBA's program plans as they relate to the 10-year BHC Initiative.

With support from your grants program, ALBA will have the opportunity to focus on deliberate planning with my agency. We will work to plan collaborative strategies that leverage the fresh foods grown by beginning farmers for expanding positive health impacts in the Alisal community.

Thank you for your consideration of this important work.

Sincerely,

Alicia Hernández Sánchez  
Hub Manager | GERENTE DEL HUB