Attachment A



Community Garden: 222 NW 3rd Ave, Visalia, CA 93291, APN 094-053-029

RPC and its programming partners shall have exclusive use of the premises and shall actively and continuously use and operate the premises for the limited purpose of operating and maintaining a community garden asset for programming participants' use for the production of agricultural products. Below is a detailed Operational and Maintenance Plan for the Community Garden:

1. Prospective Funding Sources Beyond the CSET NBS Grant

To ensure the Visalia Community Garden remains financially viable beyond the initial Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) grant that CSET is pursuing, RPC and partners will pursue the following additional funding streams:

• State & Federal Grants:

- USDA Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Grant
- California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Healthy Soils Program
- CalFire *Urban Forestry and Green Schoolyard* grants

Private and Foundation Grants:

- Kaiser Permanente and Blue Shield of California Foundation (community health & wellness)
- California Wellness Foundation (food access and health equity)
- Clif Family Foundation (sustainable food systems)
- Tulare County Farm Bureau mini-grants

• Collaborative Partner Support:

- **CAFF** will contribute technical assistance and funding linkages through its *Small Farm Tech Hub* and *Farm-to-School* network.
- **A.L.M.A.A.** will engage high school youth volunteers, develop bilingual educational content, and apply for youth civic engagement microgrants.
- **Parent University** and **Los Promotores Comunitarios** will co-lead fundraising events (plant sales, harvest dinners, crowdfunding).
- **FoodLink** and **College of the Sequoias** will help secure food recovery and educational funding support.

• Earned Income & Sponsorships:

- "Sponsor-a-Plot" program for families, schools, and local businesses
- Seasonal Garden Stand with SNAP/EBT access
- CSA-style subscriptions and value-added product sales (salsa, teas, jams)
- Local business sponsorships for signage, materials, or equipment

2. Contingencies and Existing Funding Applicability

If necessary funding is not secured, RPC and the Collaborative will:

- Prioritize essential operations using in-kind contributions and volunteer labor
- Temporarily scale programming to focus on core maintenance and access
- Rely on ongoing CBO-funded programs (Parent University, A.L.M.A.A., and Los Promotores workshops) for continuity
- Apply existing *youth engagement* and *environmental literacy* funds (through CSET and College of the Sequoias programs) to sustain the educational component
- **Funding availability** for the CSET NBS grant: through June 2026.
- RPC will target renewal or additional grants by February 2026 to ensure uninterrupted operations.

3. Collaborative Partner Commitments

| Partner | Role | Commitment |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| RPC (Lead Agency) | Coordination & Oversight | Manages daily operations, compliance, and reporting |
| CSET | Infrastructure & Workforce | Implements restoration work, provides youth labor and materials |
| Los Promotores Comunitarios | Outreach & Education | Conducts bilingual workshops, assists with recruitment |
| Parent University | Family Engagement | Delivers parent workshops, coordinates community events |

| Partner | Role | Commitment |
|-------------------------|------------------------|--|
| CAFF | Agricultural Expertise | Provides farm system training, soil health support, and market linkages |
| A.L.M.A.A. | Youth Engagement | Leads high school youth volunteer activities, develops peer-led learning |
| FoodLink | Food Security | Manages donation coordination and local distribution |
| College of the Sequoias | Educational Partner | Provides college student interns and supports garden daily operations |

4. Organizational Roles – with Employment Alignment

| Position | Reporting/Employer | Function |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Garden Coordinator | RPC | Daily management, community liaison |
| Volunteer Coordinator | RPC (with A.L.M.A.A. support) | Recruitment, scheduling, volunteer supervision |
| Education Lead | Parent University / Los Promotores | Oversees workshops and bilingual curriculum |
| Maintenance Lead | CSET | Coordinates tool/equipment management and repairs |
| Fundraising Lead | RPC / CAFF | Oversees donor engagement, event planning, and grants |
| Youth Program Assistant | A.L.M.A.A. | Peer mentor and youth activities facilitator |

5. Draft Implementation Timeline

| Phase | Milestones | Target Date |
|---|---|---------------------|
| Phase 1: Site Preparation & Infrastructure | Site cleanup, install irrigation, planters, signage | Jan – March 2026 |
| Phase 2: Garden Activation | Plot assignments, launch community registration | Jan–April 2026 |
| Phase 3: Education Launch | Begin bilingual garden workshops, youth programs | May 2026 |
| Phase 4: Community Events | Host first Harvest Day & "Sponsor-a- Plot" kickoff | April 2026 |
| Phase 5: Evaluation & Sustainability Planning | Mid-year assessment; funding renewal applications | June–Sept 2026 |

6. Day-to-Day Upkeep and Operations

Daily upkeep will be managed collaboratively by RPC staff, volunteers, and partner representatives:

• Routine Maintenance:

- o Watering schedules maintained via irrigation timers
- Weekly trash, compost, and tool checks
- o Pest monitoring and integrated pest management (IPM) practices
- o Pathway and signage upkeep

Seasonal Tasks:

- o Spring: Soil amendments, seedling preparation, compost management
- o Summer: Irrigation system checks, harvesting rotations
- o Fall: Cleanup, re-mulching, crop rotation planning
- o Winter: Tool maintenance, planning meetings, grant reporting

• Supervision:

o Garden Coordinator and Maintenance Lead will track tasks using a shared Trello board and monthly logbook (per original proposal).

7. Educational Program Enhancement

RPC's Community Learning Model combines:

- **Culturally relevant bilingual instruction** on gardening, composting, nutrition, and entrepreneurship
- Youth & family workshops co-led by A.L.M.A.A. and Parent University
- Career pathways in sustainable agriculture and microenterprise via CAFF collaboration
- **Learning outcomes tracking** using attendance logs, pre/post surveys, and milestone evaluations (e.g., number of families served, pounds of produce grown/donated)