

## **RESOLUTION 2016-31**

### **RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ENCINITAS SUPPORTING SEED SAVING WITHIN THE CITY OF ENCINITAS AND REQUESTING CITY STAFF TO SUPPORT CHANGES IN STATE SEED LAW TO ALLOW SEED SHARING WITHOUT COST OR GERMINATION TESTING**

WHEREAS, the City of ENCINITAS wishes to promote access to healthy food for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, seed libraries are nonprofit repositories of seed for the benefit of the public where free seed is distributed to promote seed sharing, provide increased access to healthy food, educate about seed saving skills, strengthen local food security, improve the health of our community members, preserve and promote our local biodiversity, celebrate local varieties that are important to our community's cultural heritage and provide seed that is locally adapted to local soils and climate; and

WHEREAS, gardening is a healthy activity supporting food access and promoting physical activity; and

WHEREAS, humans have a history of sharing seeds that created and supported civilizations for over 10,000 years; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, we have lost over 90% of the vegetable varieties grown 100 years ago; and

WHEREAS, the current industrial model of agriculture relies on a few, patented varieties of seeds to produce the majority of the food in our food system, putting our food system at considerable risk; and

WHEREAS, seed libraries and seed sharing have enabled the preservation of fruit and vegetable varieties that have historical and cultural significance to communities; and

WHEREAS, many locally adapted varieties are only available through seed libraries and not through commercial seed companies; and

WHEREAS, local seeds adapted to local soils and climate make our bio-regional food system more resilient; and

WHEREAS, the City of Encinitas supports strategies to strengthen community food assets, including community gardens, seed banks, seed libraries, and community-supported agriculture farms; and

WHEREAS, the official legislative purpose of the California Seed Law is to protect consumers who purchase seed from inadequately or illegally labeled seed and to promote fair competition; and

WHEREAS, the sharing of seeds between individuals or facilitated by seed libraries is a voluntary, community-based activity that does not take place within a marketplace and does not involve a commercial transaction; and

WHEREAS, seed libraries do not "sell" seeds, as that term is commonly defined, nor are the members of seed libraries "customers"; and

WHEREAS, there are nearly 50 seed libraries in California, 450 seed libraries in the United States and at least one existing seed library in Encinitas, with at least one additional seed library planned; and

WHEREAS, that existing seed library, located at Coral Tree Farm & Nursery, has disbursed thousands of seeds to hundreds of library patrons, and the planned seed library is at Coastal Roots Farm, where they intend to work with the nearby school district to emphasize to students and teachers the importance of seed saving; and

WHEREAS, seed libraries protect our food supply and seed libraries can play an important role in strengthening our communities' access to healthy food; and

WHEREAS, seed libraries and seed sharing facilitates access to healthy, locally grown food in food deserts, where little may be available; and

WHEREAS, seed sharing enables people to grow and feed wholesome food to their families and by saving seed they can ensure their food supply in the future; and

WHEREAS, seed libraries and seed sharing protect and encourage seeds that have cultural and historical significance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Encinitas supports and encourages the ongoing 10,000 year legacy of seed sharing between community members without legal barriers of labeling fees and germination testing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Encinitas supports and encourages the efforts of seed libraries to facilitate sharing of locally grown and saved seed.

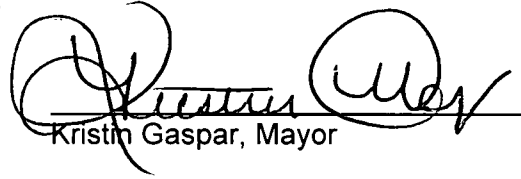
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Encinitas supports the work of our seed libraries in working with educators and community organizations to support seed saving, educate community members about the value of seed sharing, develop best practices to grow seed saving skills, and encourage voluntary and accurate seed labeling.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Encinitas supports AB 1810 (Levine) - the Seed Exchange Democracy Act - that supports the sharing of seeds between individuals and through seed libraries by removing application of any labeling, testing, and permitting requirements to interpersonal or seed library seed sharing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Encinitas directs staff to prepare a letter for the Mayor's signature in support of AB 1810 (Levine), as introduced.

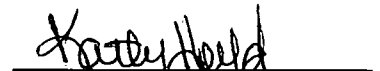
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Encinitas, California, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2016, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Blakespear, Kranz, Muir, Shaffer.  
NAYS: Gaspar.  
ABSENT: None.  
ABSTAIN: None.



Kristin Gaspar, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kathy Hollywood, City Clerk