

[DATE]

All Saints/Cristo Rey Episcopal Mission
Deacon in Charge: Robert Sommer
Bishops Warden Norma McLean
437 Rogers Avenue,
Watsonville, CA 95076
Email: churchoffice1@att.net

Cc: The Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real
Bishop Lucinda Ashby
154 Central Avenue
Salinas, CA 93901
Email: bishoplucinda@realepiscopal.org

RE: Tierras Milperas At All Saints / Cristo Rey Episcopal Mission

To Rev. Robert L. Sommer and Ms. Norma McLean,

I am writing to express my deep concern over the notice the campesino and community led organization Tierras Milperas received to vacate in 15 days their community garden and office space hosted at All Saints/Cristo Episcopal Church. We support Tierras Milperas request and your serious consideration for a meeting to discuss a reasonable timeframe for transitioning the community garden at 437 Rogers Avenue All Saints Episcopal Church.

[information about yourself here]

I have witnessed the depth of knowledge and care within Tierras Milperas' farmworker community to cultivate gardens abundant with organic and culturally-appropriate foods and medicinal herbs. Tierras Milperas has created a safe space for the migrant and farmworker community; they've organized themselves through traditional forms of community governance that uphold self-determination and collective decision-making. This is critical in

the Pajaro Valley where Latinx farmworker families face racial discrimination, disenfranchisement, and environmental injustices.

All Saints/Cristo Rey has hosted the community garden for 15 years. *[This aligns with the moral values of the Church's commitment to creation care and racial reconciliation, "a spiritual practice of seeking loving, liberating and life-giving relationships with god and one another, and striving to heal and transform injustice and brokenness in ourselves, our communities, institutions, society and dismantling the legacy of systemic racism."]* Tierras Milperas is the practice embodying these values centering justice and human dignity. The organization has created a peaceful sanctuary, not only through its network of gardens, but through their shared leadership that connects its membership to their millennial culture as stewards of seeds, land and agricultural traditions. Asking Tierras Milperas to vacate in 15 days is immoral and not enough time.

The growing season continues and the community would be best served by a dignified resolution to this matter.

Regards,

(name here)

(organization here)