Weekly Spotlight

Fighting Against Farmland Destruction in Ontario

Next week, on March 1st, the Ontario City Council will vote on the General Plan amendment for the South Ontario Logistics Center Specific Plan to rezone an area of the city, the Borba property. The farmland will be destroyed to make way for warehouse development.

Many individuals and community-led organizations in the Inland Empire have formed a coalition fighting against the destruction of over 200 acres of prime farmland in Ontario to make way for more polluting warehouses. The coalition includes the Robert Redford Conservancy for Southern California Sustainability, the Southern California Agricultural Land Foundation, American Farmland Trust, and the League of United Latin American Citizens, among others.

In a letter of opposition to rezoning to the Ontario City Council, the coalition states that rezoning is “designed to pave the way toward industrialization rather than agro ecological stewardship of the remaining agricultural land in Ontario.” The letter cites the negative impacts of warehouse growth that have affected Ontario communities for generations and the harms of exacerbating climate destruction.

The coalition envisions a no vote that will pave the way for “considering long-term investments in a regenerative, sustainable agriculture zone that can feed our communities, promote biodiversity, create climate resilience, and provide housing and education for generations to come.”

Volunteers Needed

Join the Ontario City Council meeting happening tonight at 6:30pm at City Council Chamber, 303 East B Street, Ontario, CA to support the coalition urging the Ontario City
Council to vote no on the zoning change from agricultural to industrial on the Borba property.

Or, submit a comment of opposition online by filling out a Public Comment Form by 4pm TODAY. You may also submit your comments by email no later than 4pm today by emailing your name, agenda item you are commenting on and your comments to publiccomments@ontarioca.gov. All comments received by the deadline will be forwarded to the City Council for consideration before action is taken on the matter. Please refer to this document for talking points.

**Upcoming Events**

**Pitzer Industry Series: Public Policy/Government**  
March 1 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Virtual Event

This program is part of a series that provides us with a regular platform for Pitzer alumni and families as well as employers to discuss careers in a variety of fields. In typical Pitzer fashion, we have specifically designed these series events to be small, approximately 10-15 students, to allow for meaningful conversations.

Meet winter break shadowing host Sean Sullivan ’10 a Strategy and Innovation Manager at Google for a discussion on Public Policy and government

Note: Due to Pitzer’s COVID restrictions, this program will be virtual.  
[https://pitzer.zoom.us/j/7143224139](https://pitzer.zoom.us/j/7143224139)

**Legal Observer Training with the National Lawyers Guild of Los Angeles**  
March 22 @ 5:30 pm  
Virtual Event

“NLG-LA works to ensure the legal and practical access to demonstrations in Southern California by regularly providing legal observers at demonstrations to observe and document potentially unlawful or unjustified interference with demonstrators’ rights by law enforcement.” Join the CEC and National Lawyer’s Guild of LA for a training to be certified as a legal observer.

Spanish translation will be available. For more information, contact immediate_action@pitzer.edu. Interested in collaborating with TPP? Contact TPP Program Assistant aneuburg@students.pitzer.edu or CEC Assistant Director, Jessica Chairez,
Jessica_Chairez@pitzer.edu. Check our website for additional information and updates.

Connect with Us

Want to hear more from The People’s Pitzer? Join our email list here. Want to get involved in the Community Engagement Center in other ways? Fill out our volunteer interest form here.

Follow our Instagram and Facebook (@ThePeoplesPitzer) for updates, and be sure to check out our website to see all our resources. Keep an eye out for future newsletters as well!

Further questions? Comments? Concerns? For more information about The People’s Pitzer, as well as how to get involved in our team, contact Alaina Neuburger at aneuburg@students.pitzer.edu.