Membership Agreement -- February 20, 2015 through February 19, 2016

Please read carefully. You are responsible for abiding by these rules.

1. Gardeners hereby hold the University of California, Irvine and AVCG and its officers harmless for any and all liability which may be incurred as a result of the gardener’s use of the premises. Gardeners must sign a waiver of liability as a condition of club membership.

2. New members have 14 days from the date the plot is assigned to begin working the plot. After this period, they are subject to the regular inspections. (See #11 below.)

3. Garden plots must be actively worked and harvested throughout the year, i.e., continuously growing healthy plants and free of weeds, dead, diseased or insect-infested plants. Fruits and vegetables should be harvested in a timely manner as ripe items attract rodents.

4. Planting may occur only within designated plot boundaries. Plant growth and other materials should not extend into the aisle or neighboring plots. All materials used for gardening must be kept completely within the plot boundary. Gardeners must keep the pathway adjacent to his or her assigned plot weed-free.

5. Gardeners need to read and comply with the “Guidelines for Structures and Storage” before installing structures, including frames, edging and raised beds. See the club website for this document. Perimeter fences around plots are prohibited. No structure may obstruct vision throughout the garden and may not exceed six feet in height.

6. Organic gardening is encouraged. Use of fertilizers, insecticides, weed killers, etc., must be used in a manner that will not be detrimental to adjacent gardens or grounds. Invasive plants such as mint and grasses should be planted in containers. Berries and brambles must be cut back regularly. Gardeners may be asked to remove intrusive, invasive or unsafe plants.

7. Be water wise. Over-watering that causes excessive run-off is prohibited. Always turn off the water at the spigot and release water from the hose if a sprayer is used. When leaving the garden, make sure the water is turned off and the hose coiled on the rack. Use of automatic timers for watering is prohibited.

8. Trees are permitted in freely moveable pots only, i.e., cannot be planted in the ground. Trees cannot exceed six feet in height and should not cast shadows on neighboring garden plots.

9. Shared tools are available for use by all club members and should be returned to the garden shed in a clean condition. Please help keep the shed clean and tidy.

10. Waste disposal: Green waste, i.e., plant material, should be placed in one of the communal AVCG compost bins and chopped to a size small enough for composting. Large or heavy items such as dirt, bricks, rocks, lumber, diseased plants, etc., must be hauled away off campus for appropriate disposal. Paper and plastic waste may be placed in the Palo Verde Housing dumpsters across from our garden. Never throw anything into the field surrounding our garden, including spoiled fruits or vegetables. Individual compost bins should be properly maintained.

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11. Plots are regularly inspected for compliance with club rules. If a plot is in violation of the guidelines, the club officers will inform the member(s) by email. Violations must be corrected within 14 days to the satisfaction of the officers. Members receiving three such email notices in one membership year may be considered no longer in good standing and are subject to revocation and/or non-renewal of club membership.

12. All club members are required to participate on a volunteer crew and/or perform assigned tasks to contribute to the maintenance and smooth functioning of our community garden. The suggested amount of time for volunteer work is 1 – 2 hours per month.

13. For liability reasons, only members of the AVCG club are allowed to work in or water a garden plot. When a club member is temporarily unable to work the plot, such as illness or going on vacation, they can 1) ask another club member for help; or 2) add a new member to the club to work the plot. New members must read the Member Agreement, fill out and sign Member Information sheet, sign the liability waiver and submit the documents to an officer or mail to the P.O. Box. See the club website for instructions and forms.

14. Gardeners may not trade plots or give their plot to others. If you decide to drop out of the club or cannot maintain your garden plot, please notify the officers by promptly sending email to avcg@uci.edu. When relinquishing a plot, it shall be cleared, cleaned and left neat and tidy, out of consideration of the next gardener.

15. Children are not allowed to play in the garden unsupervised. Parents are expected to keep children out of other gardeners’ plots, the shed and the community compost pile.

16. Dogs and other domestic animals are not allowed in this garden.

17. No alcohol, drugs or tobacco are allowed within the Anthill Village Community Garden site, nor may illegal substances be grown in garden plots.

18. Actions such as theft of tools, equipment, produce, flowers, vandalism or destruction of property will result in revocation of membership. Gardeners should report the following problems promptly: theft, problems with animals including gophers, voles, rats, rabbits, ants or other pests. Send email to avcg@uci.edu with your plot number: The eyes of all gardeners can help to deal with these problems.

19. Parking is allowed only in the designated AVCG parking area and the assigned placard must be displayed on the dashboard. The Palo Verde parking lot is for tenants of PV Housing only.

20. All communication to garden members is by email. Club members are responsible for reading and acting on, as required, all notices sent to them by AVCG. You are expected to inform the club of any change to your email or street address.

21. Garden plots must at all times be maintained in a safe condition or the University has the right to rectify the situation immediately. If the University is required to remedy an unsafe situation a second time, the gardener must relinquish his or her plot and membership in the club.

22. All related University policies and guidelines that apply to the community garden will be enforced at the Anthill Village Community Garden. Refer to http://www.policies.uci.edu.