



March 21, 2015

The attached petition, absent signatures to protect privacy, was submitted to a member of the board on March 2, 2015.

The Bylaws of Eastern Gardens Cooperative Article VI –Officers: Section 4 –President States:

“Duties of the President: .....including, but not limited to, the power to appoint committees from among the membership from time to time as he or she may, in his or her discretion, decide is appropriate to assist in the conduct of the affairs of the Corporation.”

Therefore, the petition’s request that a special membership meeting be called to defeat the proposed ‘finance & maintenance’ and ‘membership’ committees does not comply with our bylaws. The nature of the petition defies the very core of Eastern Garden Cooperative. The board is within its legal right to unilaterally form committees that are within the scope of the bylaws, and members do not have the legal right to stop such formation nor dissolve already formed committees.

Contrary to being “poor business practices” as is claimed by the petition, co-op board committees are an essential good business practice. They promote efficiency, transparency, involvement and informed communication of non-board members. Committees are a common component of many vibrant, well-run co-op communities and utilize the talents and resources of everyone for the good of the co-op at large.

As board president, I understand that our community here at Eastern Gardens is a thriving group of involved, concerned and knowledgeable residents. It is my goal that open dialogue will be encouraged and valued as committees explore ways to improve our co-op. After the free exchange of all opinions, the best ideas can then be adopted and implemented.

Jeff Lema  
President, Board of Directors  
Eastern Gardens Co-op



# *Eastern Gardens Co-op*

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## **MEMBER NOTICE:**

**The Meeting on March 23, 2015 will be rescheduled at a time to be determined due largely to Kim Coontz, Director of California Center for Cooperative Development, inability to address the Membership that day.**

**Additionally, FPI Management has not furnished the Board of Directors with the current monthly financial statements. Rescheduling the meeting is necessary to provide the board sufficient time to study the financials and allow our Treasurer, Lynette Haley, time to research any questions that may arise.**

**Once we schedule Director Coontz and review the current financial statements, the Board will announce a new date.**

**PETITION FOR A SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
TO STOP BOARD ACTIONS**

The undersigned members representing 5% or more of the membership of Eastern Gardens Cooperative, Inc., hereby petition that the board of directors set the earliest reasonable date, time and place for a special membership meeting for the purpose of STOPPING THE ACTIONS OF THE BOARD IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FINANCE COMMITTEE AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE. SPECIFICALLY, The proposed committee's duties and responsibilities, which were handed out to only those members in attendance and not the entire membership during Monday's open board meeting held on February 23rd, it will not only take away our managing staff's ability to do their job effectively but in some cases even do the job for our management company. Our management staff has been trained and certified and are well experienced for what is being proposed to have these committees takeover by other members. For example, there are HUD compliance issues, OSHA standards health and safety risks, legal advertising and marketing concepts as per HUD requirements. We believe that the proposed duties of these committees will be intrusive and impair our management's abilities as to the operations of our community. It also demonstrates poor business practices with no safeguards making us vulnerable for potential litigation. See Committee Proposals

In addition, notices shall be sent by the board to the membership as provided for in Corporations Code §7511 and Civil Code §5115.

Signature

Print Name and Address