



November 19, 2017

Dear PlantAmnesty members and friends,

I am thrilled to join the organization as Executive Director at such a crucial time. I know this has been an extremely difficult year for the entire PlantAmnesty family, but brighter days lie ahead.

As with each of you, Cass Turnbull left an indelible impression on me. My first introduction to PlantAmnesty came about two years ago when Cass came to speak to my neighborhood council about her mission to save a city-owned wetland, known as the Myers Parcels, from commercial development. She had a grand vision for a new city park; Discovery Park South, she called it. But she also knew that the much less glamorous task at hand was to simply stop the sale of the land. Once the greenspace was paved over, there would be no going back. I immediately joined the cause and, with the help of countless peoples' hard work, our grassroots campaign succeeded.

For me, this experience serves as a constant reminder to build upon small successes and never underestimate the power of people who care.

PlantAmnesty is so fortunate to have such a passionate network of people. I would like to acknowledge outgoing staff members, Heidi Mair and Margaret Metz for their service. I would also like to thank board member, Laura Watson, who has been keeping things running smoothly as Interim Office Manager during this time of transition.

In the coming weeks, PlantAmnesty will be rounding out the staff team with the hiring of a new Office Manager and a Program and Event Coordinator. The new, dedicated positions will allow us to begin 2018 with a more clear division of duties and points of contact. Following organizational restructuring, your staff will be hard at work expanding and diversifying PlantAmnesty's reach in the community, ensuring 2018 is a catalyst year for the organization's long-term success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dominic X. Barrera". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Dominic X. Barrera
Executive Director
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