

The Linda Vista Community Garden

By Steve Rodriguez

As election time nears,
the seeds recently planted
will soon bear fall fruit.
A San Diego working class neighborhood
finds new citizens casting ballots
for the first time.
Roots now entrenched
in this soil, nurtured by
California water and sun,
education and observation,
signal an investment in
the community's well-being.
Expected to produce dividends sprouting
in the form of civic engagement.

And so it is within
the planter beds of this new garden.
Seeds sowed on a spring day
have now grown stalks and stems.
Ripening peppers, squash, corn—
reaching far above the surface.
Subjects of pride and admiration.
A diverse mixture of generational
knowledge and experience
transplanted from the Sonoran desert,
the Guatemalan highlands,
Vietnamese deltas,
and just down the block,
is combined with a coastal climate
to produce a yield for the dinner table,
as well as encourage a firmer grip on this land.