Some patients in San Francisco grow their own cannabis collectively. Currently only 9 patients or less can collectively grow together without obtaining an MCD permit. Low-income patients are often excluded from collective gardens because they are unable to contribute what it takes to pay the bills with only 9 members. The following rough draft is a proposed solution to allow more than 9 patients to collectively grow together without increasing the size of the currently allowable garden. Numerous disincentives have been included to discourage those intending to grow for other than self-consumption purposes, or use this as a "loophole".

Definition: 3301(e)

e: A nondispensing collective garden for self-consumption (NDSC) means any number of patients sharing the work and the expenses to grow their own medicine for their own personal use with an aggregated total plant count at any given time not to exceed 216 in one designated garden and in alignment with current AG guidelines concerning compliant collective/cooperatives.

This type of collective garden is not permitted to grow cannabis for anything other than self-consumption. The following are some of the requirements a garden should adhere to to qualify as a self-consumption garden:

All expenses shall be paid directly from patients to providers (i.e. PG&E, grow store, landlord etc.) by check, money order, or credit card, no cash payments. No markup on actual costs. Accurate records indicating compliance must be made available to health inspector on request.

All self-consumption garden sites must be made available for inspection by the health department.
All self-consumption gardens shall have onsite each involved patients name and affidavit stating their agreement to comply with requirements qualifying their site as a self-consumption garden.

No cashbox, cash register, or any equipment associated with retail sales is permitted onsite
No packaging indicative of retail sales will be stored on site (i.e. baggies, jars, containers etc.)

All work is to be done by contributing members.
No employees, or paid work: all members are co-contributors of finances and labor.

All decisions concerning the operation of the garden are to be made by a board of directors consisting of at least 10% of membership or three persons whichever is more

No uninvolved "funders" who do not work in the garden to grow their own will be permitted
Only active collective members shall be permitted on the garden premises, no visitors

No live plants shall leave the garden site: a plant arrives alive it leaves dead- No finished medicine to be stored at garden site (these to help alleviate diversion by theft)

No vending of excess cannabis to dispensing collectives or other patients
No sharing of medicine grown per non-diversion guidelines.

Providing cannabis to any patient (s) other than those involved in the grow for free or otherwise is prohibited except: Any excess cannabis produced that is not able to be consumed by participating members must be donated at no cost or fee to a caregiver community center program that has no retail sales and can lawfully give away free cannabis.

Any individual collective garden member found violating the requirements for qualification may be terminated from membership by board of directors or will be given a notice of violation from the health department and must make corrections within 7 days of the notice of violation and will not be allowed access to the garden until correction is made.

Any collective garden found violating the requirements for qualification will be given a notice of violation from the health department and must make corrections within 30 days of inspection date or face further penalties. If found violating the requirements more than four times, the health department may disqualify the collective. Health inspectors may notify appropriate departments of any apparent building, fire, or other code violations.