



RESOLUTION NO. 40736

1 A RESOLUTION relating to community garden programs; authorizing the
2 execution of a Memorandum of Agreement with Pierce Conservation
3 District, in the amount of \$808,076, budgeted from the Solid Waste and
4 Wastewater Funds, for continued support of the Harvest Pierce County
Community Garden Program, retroactive to January 1, 2021, through
December 31, 2026.

5 WHEREAS the municipal wastewater utility is responsible for producing
6 clean water and recycling residual solids, with solids management making up as
7 much as 40 percent of the cost of wastewater treatment, and
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9 WHEREAS recycling solids within the City as a soil amendment is cost
10 effective and can substantially reduce the cost of solids handling, and

11 WHEREAS the solid waste utility is responsible for managing and
12 disposing of organic wastes, such as yard waste and food waste, and

13 WHEREAS composted and digested food waste make excellent soil
14 amendments for gardening, and

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16 WHEREAS community gardens and urban agriculture projects require soil
17 amendments and are an excellent venue for introducing gardeners to Tacoma's
18 soil amendment products, such as TAGRO and composted and digested food
19 waste, and
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21 WHEREAS community gardens provide an opportunity to return compost
22 and biosolids soil amendments to the community which generated the recyclable
23 material, which can substantially reduce the cost of solids handling for the
24 wastewater utility and the cost of handling organics for the solid waste utility, and
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WHEREAS community gardens also provide excellent venues for public outreach and public education on the role of organics recycling in effectively and efficiently managing wastewater and solid waste utilities, and

WHEREAS public familiarity with the value and usefulness of soils amendments derived from organic residuals can increase acceptance of and sales of these products and use of organic waste, thereby offsetting the costs of operating the solid waste and wastewater utilities, and

WHEREAS the Pierce Conservation District (“PCD”) manages and facilitates a regional urban agriculture and local food access program, Harvest Pierce County, which promotes and encourages activities that use urban residual derived soil amendments, and

WHEREAS Harvest Pierce County has worked with community groups for over seven years to develop community gardens, support community food projects, and produce educational events centered on healthy food, and

WHEREAS the Tacoma-Pierce County Community Garden Program supports Tacoma wastewater and solid waste programs in the following areas:

- Creating and sustaining a community-based food system that will increase the demand for soil amendments;
- Providing access and information to community gardeners regarding Tacoma’s TAGRO products and Tacoma’s compost products and use of organic compost as a soil amendment;
- Providing outreach to community gardeners and others interested in gardening;
- Establishing community gardens as demonstration sites; and
- Enhancing a connection to the environment that will help customers establish a more direct and meaningful understanding of their connection with, and impact on, the environment, and vice versa, and



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WHEREAS the City has established a goal of having the greatest number of community gardens per capita of any city in the United States, and

WHEREAS the City and PCD desire to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”) to facilitate cooperation between the PCD and the City to support the Harvest Pierce County program and existing community gardens, and encourage the development of new community gardens, and

WHEREAS the PCD will provide the City with quarterly reports which will include a summary of trainings and events, types and amounts of soil amendments used, and the number of gardeners, garden beds and gardens in the program, and

WHEREAS Environmental Services staff is recommending the approval of a six-year MOA with the PCD, in the amount of \$808,076, budgeted from the Solid Waste and Wastewater Funds, for continued support of the Harvest Pierce County Community Garden Program for the period of January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2026; Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

That the proper officers of the City are hereby authorized to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with Pierce Conservation District, in the amount of \$808,076, budgeted from the Solid Waste and Wastewater Funds, for continued support of the Harvest Pierce County Community Garden Program, retroactive to



1 January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2026, said agreement to be substantially
2 in the form of the document on file in the office of the City Clerk.

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4 Adopted _____

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Mayor

7 Attest:

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City Clerk

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11 Approved as to form:

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Chief Deputy City Attorney

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