



TO: Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Daniel C. Thompson, Ph.D., Division Manager, Business Operations
Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Director, Environmental Services GMS
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution - Authorization of Memorandum of Agreement with the Pierce Conservation District –
January 5, 2021
DATE: December 16, 2020

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution authorizing the execution of a six-year Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Pierce Conservation District (PCD), in the amount of \$808,076, budgeted from ES Wastewater Fund 4300 and ES Solid Waste Fund 4200, for continued support of the Harvest Pierce County community garden program for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2026.

BACKGROUND:

This Department’s Recommendation is Based On: The City has established a goal of having the greatest number of community gardens per capita of any city in the United States. Community gardens are an excellent venue for community education on recycling, composting, biosolids and water conservation. Education about recycling, compost and biosolids provides residents with the knowledge they need in order to understand sewer and solid waste utility programs. Community gardens provide a showcase for marketing TAGRO products, which will increase sales of TAGRO, helping to keep utility rates low. The 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. This MOA will 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.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

Harvest Pierce County has been working with community groups for over seven years developing community gardens, supporting community food projects and producing educational events centered on healthy food. This work is done with community outreach by Harvest Pierce County. There are nearly 40 community gardens in Tacoma located in all parts of the city from Northeast Tacoma to South Tacoma to the Lincoln District and many other areas. Neighbors of potential gardens are always contacted and their input is solicited in the location and development of the gardens.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

Environmental Services seeks City Council approval for entering into a MOA with the PCD to support the Harvest Pierce County Community Garden Program. Community gardens are located in all parts of the city including in lower income communities and in areas with a higher proportion of minorities. The PCD makes a point of trying to establish gardens that serve under represented communities.

Click or tap here to enter text. **Economy/Workforce:** *Equity Index Score: Very Low Opportunity*
Decrease the number of vacant properties downtown and in the neighborhood business districts.



Education: *Equity Index Score:* Very Low Opportunity
Increase the availability and accessibility of early childhood education programs.

Civic Engagement: *Equity Index Score:* Low Opportunity
Increase the percentage of residents who believe they are able to have a positive impact on the community and express trust in the public institutions in Tacoma.

Livability: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity
Improve health outcomes and reduce disparities, in alignment with the community health needs assessment and CHIP, for all Tacoma residents.

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).

Community gardens create open space and permeable ground that facilitates storm water infiltration. Gardens absorb carbon dioxide reducing the City’s overall carbon footprint. Community gardens provide greater access to healthy foods. The Harvest Pierce County program has placed an emphasis on doing food projects in underserved areas and has established a number of community gardens in food deserts. Community gardens enlist citizens in maintenance and beautification of properties throughout the City. This engagement gives our residents a role in the management of these properties, increasing interaction and partnership with the City.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Not continue supporting the community garden program.	Wastewater and Solid Waste utilities save \$808,076 over six years.	The PCD community garden program within the City is greatly reduced or terminated.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

The PCD will provide the City a quarterly report summarizing its achievements. This report 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.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of a six-year MOA with the PCD, in the amount of \$808,076, budgeted from ES Wastewater Fund 4300 and ES Solid Waste Fund 4200, for continued support of the Harvest Pierce County community garden program for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2026.



FISCAL IMPACT:

This MOA is budgeted for \$808,076 to continue support for the Harvest Pierce County Community Garden Program.

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
ES Solid Waste Fund 4200	512005	5412010	\$404,038
ES Wastewater Fund 4300	523905	5412010	\$404,038
TOTAL			\$808,076

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

Funding from the ES Wastewater and Solid Waste Funds supported by the utility rates.

Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium's current budget?

YES

Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

NO

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

NO

Will the legislation change the City's FTE/personnel counts?

NO

ATTACHMENTS:

- Memorandum of Agreement with the Pierce Conservation District