



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Director, Environmental Services
Daniel C. Thompson, Ph.D., Division Manager, Business Operations
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: A resolution authorizing a MOU for continued support of Harvest Pierce County –
January 3, 2017
DATE: December 7, 2016

to f.w.m.p.s

SUMMARY:

A resolution authorizing the execution of a four-year Memorandum of Understanding with Pierce County Public Works, the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma, and the Pierce County Conservation District, in the amount of \$477,601, budgeted from ES Wastewater Fund 4300, for continued support of Harvest Pierce County community garden program for the period of January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2020.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

- Strengthen and support a safe city with healthy residents.
- Ensure all Tacoma residents are valued and have access to resources to meet their needs.
- Encourage thriving residents with abundant opportunities for life-long learning.
- Assure outstanding stewardship of the natural and built environment.

Community gardens provide not only access to healthy food but promote healthy lifestyles and a greater sense of community. Promotion of gardening and urban agriculture and encouragement of the use of urban derived soil amendments furthers the City's goal of a healthier, safer City with a smaller environmental foot print. Community gardens provide a venue for educating citizens about Biosolids recycling and the value and use of Biosolids products like TAGRO and for education about composting and the use of compost products such as Cascade compost made from Tacoma yard debris. Tacoma is home to more than 35 community gardens, including 11 on City-owned property.

BACKGROUND:

ISSUE:

The City has established a goal of having the greatest number of community gardens per capita of any city in the United States. The City believes that community gardens provide not only access to healthy food but promote healthy lifestyles and a greater sense of community. In addition community gardens are an excellent venue for community education on recycling, composting, biosolids, and water conservation. Education about recycling, compost and Biosolids provides citizens with the knowledge they need 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. Tacoma has been in partnership with Pierce County Metro Parks and Pierce Conservation District supporting community gardens for more than four years through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU includes building a community based food system by supporting all existing community gardens in Tacoma and Pierce County and encouraging the development of additional community gardens. This action continues Tacoma's participation in this worthwhile effort.



ALTERNATIVES:

The City currently provides over one-third of the funding for the Harvest Pierce County program. The City could withdraw from the MOU and create a community garden program independent of other agencies. This would have the effect of focusing City resources on City gardens but losing the support and resources of Pierce County, the Pierce Conservation District, and Metro Parks for community gardens within the City.

RECOMMENDATION:

A resolution authorizing the execution of a four-year MOU with Pierce County Public Works, the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma, and the Pierce County Conservation District, in the amount of \$477,601, budgeted from ES Wastewater Fund 4300, for continued support of Harvest Pierce County for the period of January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2020.

FISCAL IMPACT:

EXPENDITURES:

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME *	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
ES Wastewater Fund 4300	527000	5310100	\$477,601
TOTAL			

* General Fund: Include Department

REVENUES:

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
ES Wastewater Fund 4300	523900	4343150	\$477,601
TOTAL			

FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: \$232,875

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? Yes, funds are planned in the 2017/2018 Biennial Budget.

IF EXPENSE IS NOT BUDGETED, PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW THEY ARE TO BE COVERED.

Funding beyond the current biennium is subject to future availability of funds. Funds are anticipated to be included in future biennium budgets. No budget modifications are required.