



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: John Ristow

SUBJECT: Agreement with San Jose
Conservation Corps for
Urban Forestry Services

DATE: July 20, 2026

Approved

Date:

7/29/26

COUNCIL DISTRICT: Citywide

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to negotiate and execute an agreement with San Jose Conservation Corps for urban forestry services for a term ending on December 31, 2028, with a total combined not-to-exceed amount of \$1,500,000.

SUMMARY AND OUTCOME

Approval will allow the City of San José to negotiate and execute an agreement through which the City can partner with San Jose Conservation Corps (SJCC) for urban forestry services.

BACKGROUND

In September 2023, the Department of Transportation was awarded \$5.6 million in grant funding from the United States Forest Service for the San José Community Forest Investment Project (Project). The grant allocates funding to work with SJCC to plant and establish approximately 2,800 trees in low canopy coverage areas through December 31, 2028. SJCC was selected for the Project because of its non-profit job training model of service, which provides professional development opportunities for youth with no prior workforce experience, aligning with the Project goal of benefiting disadvantaged communities.

ANALYSIS

In 2024, the City adopted Resolution No. RES2024-101 authorizing the City Manager or her designee to negotiate and execute a grant agreement with the United States Forest Service for the Project. The grant application and subsequent grant award stipulate that the City is to partner with SJCC for the Project.

The Project is expected to result in a significant positive environmental justice and health equity impact with communities that are documented to have the lowest tree canopy cover and health equity metrics, as the Project funding is specifically allocated for use in these areas. SJCC will provide valuable urban forestry training to its members regarding tree planting, mulching, staking, watering, and young tree structural pruning, which they can apply to future job opportunities.

Climate Smart San José Analysis

The recommendation in this memorandum aligns with multiple goals in the Climate Smart San José and Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan by facilitating the reduction of energy use consumption, sequestering carbon, reducing urban heat, and facilitating job creation within city limits.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

The Department of Transportation will provide ongoing evaluation of the partnership and agreement with SJCC and provide periodic reports regarding urban forestry topics to the Transportation and Environment Committee.

FISCAL IMPACTS

The total recommended amount of \$1,500,000 is composed of the allotted amount over the course of the Project period to spend with SJCC (\$1,392,000) and an 8% contingency (\$108,000) in the case that the funding allotment is extended. It is estimated that \$464,000 will be spent with SJCC for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

BUDGET REFERENCE

The table below identifies the fund and appropriations to fund the contract recommended as part of this memorandum.

Fund #	Appn. #	Appropriation Name	Total Appropriation	Amount for Contract	2026-2027 Proposed Operating Budget Page*	Last Budget Action (Date, Ord. No.)
001	229Q	Inflation Reduction Act – Urban Forestry Grant (Transportation)	\$1,762,686	\$464,000	811	6/16/2026 31336

**The 2026-2027 Proposed Operating Budget was released on May 2, 2026, reviewed by the City Council on June 9, 2026, and adopted on June 16, 2026.*

COORDINATION

This memorandum was coordinated with the City Attorney's Office, City Manager's Budget Office, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department, and the Planning, Building and Code Enforcement Department.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

This memorandum will be posted on the City Council Agenda website for the August 11, 2026 City Council meeting.

BOARD, COMMISSION, COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION AND INPUT

No board, commission, or committee recommendation or input is associated with this action.

CEQA

Categorically Exempt, File No. ER24-086, CEQA Guideline Section 15301(h) Existing Facilities.

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PUBLIC SUBSIDY REPORTING

This item does not include a public subsidy as defined in section 53083 or 53083.1 of the California Government Code or the City's Open Government Resolution.

/s/

John Ristow

Director, Transportation

For questions, please contact Jennifer Seguin, Deputy Director of Transportation, at Jennifer.Seguin@sanjoseca.gov or (408) 794-6453.