



# Memorandum

**TO:** MAYOR LICCARDO  
**SUBJECT:** BUDGET DOCUMENT

**FROM:** Councilmember Carrasco  
**DATE:** 5/24/2022

Approved

Date: 5/24/2022

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the following recommendation be enacted.

### **Proposal**

Program/Project Title: **East Side Preservation Plan – Urban Greening: Veggielution**

Amount of City Funding Required: \$33,394

This change is:

One-time     Ongoing

Cost Estimate Number (if applicable):42

Proposal Description, including the reason for the need and anticipated outcomes (Please describe how the proposal will affect services for San José residents, community groups, businesses, etc.):

Veggielution is a hidden gem of East San José, encapsulating the history of open orchards and agriculture present here in the Valley of Heart's Delight. Veggielution is a precious space preserved to provide nutrition education and outdoor programming for East San José youth who may live in crowded conditions and are often experiencing food insecurity.

Back in March 2020, Veggielution launched Eastside Connect, a program through which they distributed fresh produce to low-income East San José residents who were experiencing the brunt of the COVID-19-related shutdowns. They now serve more than 250 people per week through farm boxes and their onsite farm stand!

Knowing that East Side was challenged, Veggielution was among the first to step up and fill that nutritional gap to ensure our folks were fed. To help beautify their space, and support their advocacy, please \$33,394 for the following:

- 15 Mandarin Trees,
- 6 "Unique" Varieties (depending on availability by city's vendor),
  - Buddha's Hand Citron, finger limes, a kumquat and another interesting variety.
- 10 Lemons,
  - A mix of Meyer, Eureka, Lisbon, and Luis's Mexican Variety
- 8 Limes,
- 5 Grapefruit (depending on availability by city's vendor),
  - A mix of Oro Blanco, Pomelo, and Pink Grapefruit
- Up to 20 Oranges (depending on availability by city's vendor),
  - 3 regular orange trees
  - A mix of Washington Navel, Robertson/Late Lane, Cara Cara, and Blood Orange
- Four Picnic Benches,
- City Department Review of this project,
- And needed irrigation equipment to maintain this grove.

I'm thankful that Veggielution will frontload labor costs as they will plant the trees, install the irrigation, and maintain the grove. Likewise, the fruit harvested from these trees would be reserved for volunteers and their free, fresh produce boxes, serving residents of San José.

### **Funding Source**

Essential Services Reserve:

Other (Please specify program/project/fund):\_General Fund

### **Department or Organization Contact**

Please list the contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation:

Name and Title: Jon Cicirelli, Director

Department or Organization: Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services

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