

CITY OF SANTA ROSA  
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: GLORIA HURTADO  
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE  
AUTHOR: ERIN MORRIS, SENIOR PLANNER, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
SUBJECT: SUSTAINABLE CITIES MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
WITH SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

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RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the City Manager's Office that the Council, by resolution, approve the Memorandum of Understanding between City of Santa Rosa and Sonoma State University for the Sustainable Cities partnership.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

"Sustainable Cities" is a national model for partnerships between cities and universities, providing opportunities for university students to identify solutions to local challenges, present new and innovative ideas to cities and make a difference in the community. The City of Santa Rosa has the opportunity to partner with Sonoma State University to work together on various "Sustainable Cities" projects. The City will benefit from increased capacity to tackle environmental initiatives and greater connections to Sonoma State University. The Memorandum of Understanding outlines how the City and University will collaborate to develop a project list and move forward.

BACKGROUND

In 2015, City staff began meeting with Sonoma State staff to discuss the Sustainable Cities model and how both entities might work together to implement a program that would benefit both partners.

In 2016, a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was developed to articulate the structure of the partnership.

In February 2017, Sonoma State University approved the MOU. The next step is for the City to approve it.

### PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

Not applicable.

### ANALYSIS

“Sustainable Cities” is a national model for partnerships between cities and universities, providing opportunities for university students to identify solutions to local challenges, present new and innovative ideas to cities and make a difference in the community. The City of Santa Rosa has the opportunity to partner with Sonoma State University to work together on various “Sustainable Cities” projects. This program will benefit Sonoma State students by providing real world experience, a sense of purpose, and civic engagement opportunities. The University will benefit with increased external and internal relationships and by having a platform for research and outreach.

The City will benefit in a variety of ways. The initial list of potential projects stem from various departments and City interests, and partnering with SSU will increase the City’s capacity to tackle environmental initiatives and build a stronger connection to Sonoma State University. The Memorandum of Understanding outlines how the City and the University will collaborate to develop a project list and move forward.

### FISCAL IMPACT

Approval of the MOU does not have a fiscal impact on the General Fund. Once projects are identified, funding will be provided by the lead City department.

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Adoption of the MOU is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378.

### BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

### NOTIFICATION

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

- Resolution

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