



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# City Council Memorandum

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**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL** **DATE: JUNE 25, 2019**

**FROM: COUNCILMEMBER CHRIS MACARTHUR, WARD 5** **WARDS: ALL**  
**COUNCILMEMBER ANDY MELENDREZ, WARD 2**

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FUNDING FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES' COOPERATIVE EXTENSION IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY TO POSITIVELY IMPACT RIVERSIDE'S FOOD SYSTEM AND AGRICULTURE ECONOMY**

## **ISSUE:**

Adopt a resolution in response to recent considerations by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors to defund programming for the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources' Cooperative Extension (UCANR/UCCE).

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the City Council adopt the attached resolution encouraging the Riverside County Board of Supervisors to fully fund the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Cooperative Extension programming in Riverside County to ensure continued programming for 4H, Master Gardeners, Farm Advisors and the myriad of services provided by UCANR/UCCE in the City of Riverside.

## **BACKGROUND:**

According to the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner's 2017 Crop Year Report, the county's agricultural industry ranked fourteenth in the state and spanned over 200,000 acres. Farmers across the county raised more than 120 specialty crops including vegetables, citrus, melons, field and seed crops, tree and vine crops, nursery stock, in addition to aquaculture, apiary, poultry, and livestock products. The county's agricultural output was valued at nearly \$1,200,000,000, contributing to an economic impact of approximately \$3,600,000,000 to the regional economy, and provided more than 17,000 jobs. The value of agricultural output in the western portion of the county, which includes the cities of Riverside and Corona, was valued at \$102,010,000 in 2017.

## **DISCUSSION:**

An important partner assisting the City's GrowRIVERSIDE Initiative to develop a local food system and robust agricultural sector is the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources' Cooperative Extension (UCANR/UCCE), a resource that is funded by three parties – federal, state and local governments. The mission of UCANR/UCCE is to enhance agriculture

and the community with the power of University of California research. UCCE partnership with Riverside County is over 100 years old and, by any measure, is a highly productive partnership that provides a very high return on investment for citizens as well as the economy across the County. For every \$1 that Riverside County invests, UCCE invests just over \$4 into the county to support a wide array of public service and economic development activities that produce a thriving agricultural economy, better nutrition for families, and programs supporting youth development, efficient use of water resources, technical assistance for homeowners and natural resource managers, and much more.

Funding from Riverside County has enabled UCANR/UCCE programming and staff to support the county's agricultural sectors and communities by serving as *stewards* of land and water resources in developing water-use and land-management strategies; as *farm advisors* assisting farmers implement more efficient growing methods and livestock management, solving pest problems such as Citrus Greening and Pierce's disease, and providing resources in agriculture economics and agribusiness management; as *advocates* for healthy communities, promoting healthy diets and exercise through nutrition programs, the 4-H Youth Development and Master Gardeners programs; and as *educators* hosting workshops and programs to grow California agriculture.

With recent considerations by the Riverside Board of Supervisors to defund and therefore eliminate UCANR/UCCE programming, it is important to express the critical need to fully fund programming to ensure Master Gardeners, 4-H, health and nutrition, and farm advisors and other programs that are critical to advancing Riverside's food system development. UCANR/UCCE is a unique entity and it is important that the City of Riverside and community stakeholders express strong support for the continuation of fully funded programming with funds from Riverside County, state, and federal government agencies to ensure UCANR/UCCE programs and services are available. See Attachment 2, Press Enterprise article.

There is still much work to realize the robust Riverside food economy envisioned in the Riverside Food & Agriculture Action Plan. Sustaining continued success of the GrowRIVERSIDE Initiative requires an ongoing partnership with UCANR/UCCE.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund associated with this report.

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Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachments: 1. Resolution  
2. Press Enterprise Article