

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Sembrando Esperanza is a coalition of local organizations 501 (c) (3) nonprofit focused on local community engagement and environmentalism in nine neighborhoods of the City of El Paso (the “City”); and

WHEREAS, Sembrando Esperanza collaborates with the City in efforts to raise climate awareness among local communities; and

WHEREAS, the UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO (UTEP), a Texas State Agency, Texas Public Institution of Higher Education and component institution of the University of Texas System (University) is an integral part of the community with its technical expertise in borderland environmental issues and interdisciplinary studies; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso’s Climate Planning efforts identified a number of climate resilient activities including: increased urban tree canopy; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso has identified the necessary \$20,000.00 match grant from approved operational funds for fiscal year 2025-26; and

WHEREAS, Sembrando Esperanza and UTEP intend to partner with the City for the application and during the implementation of a Community Forestry Grant through the Texas A&M Forest Service (the “Grant”); and

WHEREAS, if selected for the Grant, Sembrando Esperanza would use grant funds to plant trees, train tree stewards, and encourage local participation and service under the umbrella of 915 Treekeepers; and

WHEREAS, if selected for the Grant, UTEP would provide technical in-kind support to achieve the program objectives; and

WHEREAS, the City has actively collaborated with Sembrando Esperanza in the 915 Tree Keepers program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

THAT the City of El Paso partner with Sembrando Esperanza and UTEP to submit an application to a \$50,000.00 Texas A&M Forest Service Forestry Grants program, with a \$21,000.00 cash and \$29,000.00 in-kind match from the City.

THAT the City of El Paso City Council authorize the submission of an application to the Texas A&M Forest Service Forestry Grants program with a \$21,000.00 cash and \$29,000.00 in-kind match from the City, for the 915 Resilient Community Forest project.

THAT the City Manager, or designee, is authorized to sign any documents necessary for the proper submission of the Application;

THAT the City Manager, or designee, is authorized to sign any documents necessary to accept a grant resulting from the Application, after consultation with the City Attorney's Office;

THAT the City Manager, or designee, is authorized to sign any documents related to a grant resulting from the Application, including, but not limited to, revisions to the project scope of work, revisions that increase, decrease or de-obligate program funds, revisions to the operation plan, and documents to reject, amend, correct, and/or terminate the grant;

THAT the City Manager, or designee, is authorized to explore funding sources and partnerships that leverage the strength of the Application and any grant resulting from the Application.

APPROVED this _____ day of _____ 2026.

CITY OF EL PASO:

Renard U. Johnson
Mayor

ATTEST:

Laura D. Prine
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Russel T. Abeln

Russell Abeln
Senior Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Stephen Ian Voglewede

Ian Stephen Voglewede, Director
Strategic and Legislative Affairs