



CITY OF SALINAS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: **FEBRUARY 20, 2018**

DEPARTMENT: **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

FROM: **MEGAN HUNTER, DIRECTOR**

BY: **LISA BRINTON, SENIOR PLANNER**

TITLE: **FIRST AMENDMENT TO MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AMERICORPS VISTA PROGRAM**

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

A motion to approve a resolution authorizing the execution of a First Amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement (MA) with the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) AmeriCorps VISTA program.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council approve the attached resolution

- 1) authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to execute a First Amendment to the MA (Amendment) with CNCS;
- 2) appropriate \$6,400 to the Community Development department budget of the General Fund (1000.30.311-63.6010) to cover the 2017-2018 annual living allowance increase to the City's VISTA cost-share; and
- 3) authorizing the City Manager, or his designee to execute any future MA amendments required for program annual term extensions and cost-share increases.

BACKGROUND:

AmeriCorps VISTA is the national service program designed specifically to fight poverty. Rather than providing cash grants, the VISTA program places individuals with a sponsoring organization to engage in a year of full-time service to create or expand programs designed to bring individuals and communities out of poverty.

In February 2017, the City Council approved Resolution No. 21129 (N.C.S.) authorizing the execution of a MA with CNCS for the placement of five (5) VISTA Members ("VISTAs") to

facilitate programs and projects in support of the preparation and implementation of the Alisal Vibrancy Plan. Program projects include: assessing housing conditions and connecting low-income individuals and families with housing resources, working with neighborhood businesses and entrepreneurs to facilitate growth and more employment opportunities through increased access to capital, creating a health-speaker curriculum in local recreation centers, and increasing the capacity of the library's volunteering tutoring and educational programs. The City's financial obligation under the terms of the MA includes a cost-share payment of \$25,656 for two (2) VISTA members. The authorizing resolution and MA are provided as Attachment 2.

In August 2017, three VISTA members began their year of service. Each VISTA member has a program area of focus: housing, health, and education. In November 2017, a fourth VISTA member, focusing on economic development and small business support, joined the team. This fourth VISTA is the City's first cost share VISTA. Staff is still recruiting a fifth VISTA who will focus on literacy. Attachment 3 to this report is a summary of VISTA activities and accomplishments to date.

DISCUSSION:

VISTA sponsor organizations are required to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MA) with CNCS. The term of the VISTA placement is for one year. The VISTAs are not employees of City (Sponsor). They fall under a service category created under the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973. CNCS provides VISTAs with a small living allowance based on an area's cost of living. When the City entered into the MA in February 2017, the Monterey County living allowance was \$12,828 annually. In July 2017, CNCS informed the City that an amendment to the MA was required to reflect the annual living allowance increase to the City's cost share obligation for two VISTAs from \$25,656 to \$31,992, an additional \$6,336 dollars.

All other terms and obligations of the MA remain unchanged. Given that CNCS may extend the City's VISTA program for up to three years, it is recommended that the City Manager, or his designee, be authorized to execute future amendments required to reflect extensions to the MA term and annual increases to the City's cost-share obligation.

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

The City of Salinas has determined that the proposed action of amending the MA is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378).

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

The overarching goal of the Salinas VISTA program is to build the capacity of residents and organizations to be active in the development of the Alisal Vibrancy Plan, to implement EDE actions at the neighborhood level ahead of the plan's completion, and to lay the foundation for future collective action to transform the Alisal. East Salinas is one of the areas identified as a Focused Growth Area in the City's Economic Development Element (EDE). The preparation of the Alisal Vibrancy Plan is key to the implementation of several EDE goals, policies, and actions

items related to promoting economic development and vibrancy in East Salinas. The EDE, as well as its implementation, aligns closely with the City Council's goals (2016-2019) of:

- I. Economic Diversity and Prosperity
- II. Safe, Livable Community
- III. Effective, Sustainable Government
- IV. Well Planned City and Excellent Infrastructure
- V. Quality of Life

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The 2017-2018 increase to the City's cost share for two of the five VISTAs is \$6,336. The 2017-2018 Budget only appropriated \$25,656 for the VISTA program. Staff is requesting an supplemental appropriation of \$6,400 to the Community Development department Plan and Project Implementation Division in the General Fund budgeted for Outside Services – Other Outside Services (1000.30.3111-63.6010) to pay the increase to the City's VISTA cost share. This is a minimal cost for the benefit of receiving five full-time staff to assist with EDE and AVP programs and projects to benefit the Alisal.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution authorizing execution of First Amendment to MA
 - a. Exhibit A First Amendment to MA
2. Resolution 21129 (N.C.S.) and CNCS MA 2017 MA
3. Summary of VISTA members' activities and accomplishments