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City and EMWD Partner up on Garden Project

Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) is one of two premium agencies that partnered with the City of Perris to make the recently unveiled community garden another rousing success for Perris residents.

The top-tier “Platinum Partners” include EMWD and the Western Riverside Council of Governments.

Eastern contributed \$25,000 toward the cost of the garden. The contribution assisted in planning the garden along with community engagement, securing funds and networking resources.

Melanie Nieman, EMWD’s Director of Inter-agency Cooperation, said the utility company partnered with Perris to demonstrate significant water savings from incorporating aeroponics, aquaponics, hydroponics and other growing techniques employed in the community garden, known officially as the Green City Farm Project. Some estimates place the water savings at 90 percent compared to traditional growing methods.

The project also allows members of the Youth Ecology Corps, who are interested in possible careers in the water industry, on-the-job training.

Nieman said the City of Perris was an “excellent partner” on the garden project. She attended the City’s April 23rd Health Fair and spoke with Perris residents who expressed strong support for the garden. The City of Perris is accepting applications from people interested in taking part in the Green City Farm Project as a garden volunteer.

“We are grateful the City provided the opportunity for (EMWD) to share its expertise regarding water efficiency to the benefit of the community,” she said. “EMWD is interested in saving water and in sharing information with the public that is useful and provides enjoyment without compromising quality of life. Even if California were not in a drought, we must learn to live with less water,” Nieman said.

Perris Mayor Daryl Busch said the City is grateful for its Platinum Level sponsors, whose support already has elevated the community garden to elite status.

“I want to thank and congratulate them for their commitment to Perris and to our Green City Farm Project,” Busch said. “I have heard a lot of positive comments from the community—people are really excited and impressed by what they’ve seen. Without the support of our sponsors, we could not have done the job that we did. We are really proud they chose this project.”

More information about the Green City Farm Project is available at www.cityofperris.org/livewell/community-garden.

Media Contact

Joe Vargo
Public Information Officer
951-943-6100
jvargo@cityofperris.org



Perris City Hall
101 N. D Street
Perris, CA 92570

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8 am - 6pm

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