



Honorable Mayor and Members of the Hermosa Beach City Council

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF SPONSORSHIP DONATION TO GRADES OF GREEN VERTE 2025 GALA

(Interim City Manager Steve Napolitano)

Recommended Action:

Staff recommends City Council approve a sponsorship donation of \$5,000 to the Grades of Green Verte 2025 Gala.

Executive Summary:

Grades of Green is a South Bay–founded nonprofit (est. 2009) that inspires and activates students to lead environmental change. Recognized as the 2022 California Nonprofit of the Year, they proudly partner with Hermosa Beach schools and the community to create a more sustainable future. The annual Grades of Green Verte Gala raises funds to support Grades of Green’s environmental education and programs for Hermosa Beach School District students, teachers, and district staff. Staff recommends City Council approve a sponsorship donation of \$5,000 to the Grades of Green Verte 2025 Gala.

Background:

Partnership Highlights in Hermosa Beach

- **Docent Program** – Classroom sustainability lessons & hands-on activities.
- **Trash Free Lunch Programs** – Lunchtime waste sorting & food waste reduction aligned with SB 1383.
- **Youth Corps Projects** – Student leaders planted trees along the Greenbelt and distributed 200+ rain barrels.
- **Advocacy** – Students influenced city bans on polystyrene and plastic bags.
- **Assemblies & Campaigns** – Foam Free Fridays and waste reduction assemblies shifted school culture.

Student Success Stories

- **Max** planted 100 trees on the Greenbelt.
- **Riley** helped distribute over 200 rain barrels to reduce residential water waste.
- **Hermosa students** championed school and citywide policies on single-use plastics.

Community Education Partnerships

In partnership with Lazy Acres in Hermosa Beach, Grades of Green is expanding community sustainability outreach:

- **Workshops & Tabling Events** – Free education for youth and community members.
- **Upcoming Cooking Classes for HB Families by HB Families** – No-cost, hands-on cooking classes using donated food from Lazy Acres. Designed to prioritize families who are socioeconomically disadvantaged (but not limited to), these workshops prevent food waste while strengthening community bonds.

Past Council Actions

Meeting Date	Description
April 10, 2018	City Council approved \$5,000 donation to Grades of Green VERTE 2018 Gala.
October 11, 2022	City Council approved \$5,000 donation to Grades of Green VERTE 2022 Gala.
October 10, 2023	City Council approved \$5,000 donation to Grades of Green VERTE 2023 Gala.
August 13, 2024	City Council approved \$5,000 donation to Grades of Green VERTE 2024 Gala.

Discussion:

The Grades of Green Verte Gala raises funds to support Grades of Green’s Environmental Education and Programs for Hermosa Beach School District students, teachers, and district staff. This year, Grades of Green celebrates a major milestone: 15 years of empowering youth to lead environmental change in their schools and communities. They’re looking forward to honoring incredible leaders in the field including Ms. Nalleli Cobo who is a Los Angeles youth leader who partners with Jane Fonda and Billie Elish, Goldman Environmental Prize Winner, and current 776 Fellow under Alexis Ohanian's foundation. They’re also honoring Mr. Dune Lankard who is an Indigenous leader from Alaska spreading awareness about sustainable aquaculture practices with Fed By Blue and PBS, a James Beard Honoree, and founder of Native Conservancy.

Looking Ahead – 2025 Priorities in Hermosa Beach

With continued support from the City of Hermosa Beach, Grades of Green will:

- Expand **waste sorting & SB 1383 compliance programs** in schools.
- Deliver **interactive assemblies** and classroom lessons for K–5 students.
- Mentor student **Eco-Leaders & Green Teams** to lead community projects through our **RISE** and **SOAR** programs to connect students across communities.
- Provide **Launch Toolkits** to empower schools with sustainability resources.

- Engage families and the community through **tree planting, water conservation, waste diversion, and cooking workshops.**

Staff recommends City Council approve a sponsorship donation of \$5,000 to the Grades of Green Verte 2025 Gala to be held on October 23, 2025.

Fiscal Impact:

The Grades of Green VERTE 2025 Gala donation is approved in the Fiscal Year 2025–26 Budget in the City Council Special Events account, 001-1101-4319.

Attachments:

1. Grades of Green Sponsorship Page 2025
2. Grades of Green Programs Overview 2025
3. Grades of Green Student Impact
4. Grades of Green Verte 2025 Flyer

Respectfully Submitted by: Ann Yang, Executive Assistant

Noted for Fiscal Impact: Henry Chao, Finance Manager

Concur: Brandon Walker, Administrative Services Director

Legal Review: Todd Leishman, Interim City Attorney

Approved: Steve Napolitano, Interim City Manager