

ATTACHMENT B

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS NOT UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

B. APPROVAL OF GOODS AND GENERAL SERVICES CONTRACTS/ AMENDMENTS/ AUTHORIZATION TO INCREASE CONTRACT CAPACITY EXCEEDING \$250,000

Authority to award contracts for furnishings, equipment, supplies, and general services. The total amount listed is a not-to-exceed contract authority and is based on an estimate since the expenditures made against contracts are based upon purchased and/or approved invoices.

Item P

FOOD SERVICES DIVISION

<u>CONTRACTOR</u>	<u>IDENTIFI- CATION NO.</u>	<u>CONTRACT TERM</u>	<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Crop Swap LA, dba Growing Communities, Inc.;	C50937	11/01/25 – 03/31/27	USDA National	\$114,500
Garden School Foundation, Inc.	C50939		Institute of Food Agriculture Grant (NIFA) (100%)	\$235,500

Approval of two (2) single-source, named-in-grant contracts with Garden School Foundation (GSF) and Crop Swap LA (CSLA) to implement the Cafeteria to Compost (C2C) Program at eight (8) Title I school sites. GSF and CSLA were selected as named partners in the grant due to their established expertise in school gardens, garden-based education, waste separation, and composting initiatives. As required by the grant, Food Services Division (FSD) serves as the sponsoring agency, ensuring alignment with California Senate Bill 1383 on food recovery and waste diversion while advancing shared goals of sustainability, climate education, and student engagement.

On July 15, 2025, the United States Department of Agriculture – National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA NIFA) awarded the District a Composting and Food Waste Reduction Cooperative Agreement Pilot Program grant. The program budget includes \$50,000 in federal funds and a \$50,000 matching contribution from FSD, for a total of \$100,000. These funds will provide program-related supplies such as compost bins, waste sorting stations, safety equipment, and student engagement materials to support the 8 pilot schools, along with marketing materials for all 684 cafeterias. Overall, each school site will receive approximately \$145 in resources to reinforce food waste reduction messaging, promote Share Cart use, and engage students and staff.

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While the composting pilot will operate at eight (8) schools, the Districtwide campaign ensures all cafeterias are prepared to adopt waste diversion practices as the program expands.

The C2C Pilot Program supports the District's Climate Action and Sustainability Goals and aligns with state mandates, including SB 1383, by advancing organic waste diversion and edible food recovery. The project will also produce a Food Waste Reduction Plan to serve as a scalable model for potential Districtwide implementation.

The program will directly benefit approximately 2,755 students and 133 staff members across eight (8) Title I schools - Board District 1: Susan Miller Dorsey Senior High, Carthay Elementary, Charnock Road Elementary, 54th Street Elementary (Windsor Hills) and West Athens Elementary. Board District 4: Garner Elementary. Board District 7: Annalee Elementary and Leapwood Avenue Elementary. These schools were selected in partnership with GSF and CSLA based on their proximity to existing program schools to ensure logistical support, as well as demonstrated community need. In this context, demonstrated needs refers to student populations where over 90% are minorities, the majority qualify as economically disadvantaged, and high rates of food insecurity are present. The pilot builds on GSF's Cafeteria to Compost program, which has operated successfully since 2018 at five schools (Grand View Boulevard Elementary, 24th Street Elementary, Baldwin Hills Elementary, Normandie Avenue Elementary, and West Vernon Avenue Elementary) already surpassing District waste diversion goals. The eight pilot schools will receive direct support from GSF and CSLA, along with peer-to-peer guidance from the five existing program schools, ensuring a scalable and sustainable model.

This action aligns with the District's Strategic Plan: Pillar 2A – Welcoming Learning Environments: Design and sustain welcoming, safe, environmentally friendly, affirming, and inclusive learning environments. Pillar 2B – Whole-Child Well-Being: Promote whole-child well-being through integrated health, nutrition, and wellness services. By creating outdoor learning gardens, teaching students about waste reduction, and modeling sustainable practices like composting, the C2C Program contributes to environmentally conscious, inclusive learning spaces. It also supports nutrition education and the development of healthy, lifelong habits, reinforcing the District's commitment to whole-child well-being.

Aggregate Value for the Two (2) Contracts: \$350,000

Requester:

Andres Chait, Chief of School Operations

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Equity Impact:

Component	Score	Score Rationale
Recognition	3	USDA Composting & Food Waste Reduction Pilot Program Grant affirmatively recognizes historical inequities related to food access, nutrition education, access to green spaces and school gardens, and the lack of resources for educating students about sustainable practices such as composting.
Resource Prioritization	3	The grant prioritizes resources based on student need as the eighth pilot sites are in the largest concentration of poverty in Los Angeles; South and Central Los Angeles. The expansion sites are located near the current Garden School Foundation and Crop Swap LA schools so that they can collaborate with success models and work to build parent and community support.
Results	3	The purpose of the pilot, and expansion of the program, is to develop successful models for waste reduction, composting, and garden and nutrition education that can be adopted and rolled out district wide. This will address and close opportunity and achievement gaps.
TOTAL	9	