

RULES, ELECTIONS, AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT and RESOLUTION relative to establishing the City’s position on a proposed federal government policy to lower wage standards for H-2A workers by categorizing 92 percent of farmworkers as “unskilled.”

Recommendation for Council action, as initiated by Resolution (Rodriguez – Padilla), SUBJECT TO THE CONCURRENCE OF THE MAYOR:

RESOLVE to include in the City’s 2025-26 Federal Legislative Program OPPOSITION of the U.S. Department of Labor’s interim final rule to reduce minimum wage rates paid to temporary and seasonal agricultural workers on the H-2A visa program.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None reported by the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA). The City Administrative Officer has not completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On April 17, 2026, your Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee considered an April 15, 2026 CLA report and revised Resolution, and a March 24, 2026 Resolution (Rodriguez – Padilla) relative to a proposed federal government policy to lower wage standards for H-2A workers by categorizing 92 percent of farmworkers as “unskilled.” According to the Resolution, this policy is projected to reduce wages for farmworkers to levels below current standards, creating the risk of downward pressure on wages for all agricultural workers, including U.S. citizens and lawful residents. Reducing wages for essential workers undermines economic stability, weakens labor standards, and contradicts long-standing federal worker protection policies. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the CLA’s revised Resolution. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

COUNCILMEMBER	VOTE
HARRIS-DAWSON:	YES
RAMAN:	YES
YAROSLAVSKY:	YES
SOTO-MARTINEZ:	YES
LEE:	ABSENT

RM
04/17/26

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-