



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 31, 2023

Contact: Brian Johnson, Community Relations Manager
Email: btjohnson@cityofhanfordca.com
Phone Number: (559) 537-7999

CITY OF HANFORD SETTLES BREACH OF CONTRACT LAWSUIT WITH FERTILIZER COMPANY

City will pay Helena Agri-Enterprises \$12.5 million over five years; avoids potential \$50 million payment at jury trial

HANFORD, CA – This afternoon, the Hanford City Council held a special meeting where they considered and ultimately approved a settlement agreement with Helena Agri-Enterprises, LLC (Helena). Helena was seeking damages of \$38 million plus interest and attorneys' fees, for an amount exceeding \$50 million.

The agreement, reached through mediation, fully resolves a legal dispute between the City and Helena dating back to a land deal in 2014. As part of the agreement, the City will pay Helena \$12.5 million; \$7.5 million within 30 days and the remaining \$5 million in equal annual payments over 4 years, beginning on March 1, 2024.

“It's important for the public to know that this settlement will not impact the City's ability to continue to provide essential services to our residents, such as police and fire services,” said Mayor Travis Paden. “The fact that this lawsuit has been pending for so long has had an impact on the City's ability to budget for future services for many years now and although unfortunate, it's a relief to bring closure to this matter.”

More information about the settlement can be found in the [agenda](#) for today's City Council meeting.

###