

Agenda Report



MEETING DATE: Tuesday, June 25, 2024

TO: City Council

FROM: PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DIRECTOR LINDBERG
SR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS ANALYST STOLZENTHALER

SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE COUNTY OF
SANTA CRUZ FOR EDIBLE FOOD RECOVERY SUPPORT
SERVICES

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County of Santa Cruz for Edible Food Recovery Support Services.

BACKGROUND:

An Edible Food Recovery Program is required by each jurisdiction in California to track edible food that would otherwise go to waste and redistribute it to feed people in need. In 2016, the California Legislature passed SB 1383, the Short-lived Climate Pollutants Act, to reduce disposal of organic materials. Recently, the City of Watsonville (City) was awarded \$137,242.00 in CalRecycle grant funds for organic waste reduction. As part of this most recent grant, there is an expectation that some of the funds should be targeted toward edible food recovery activities.

DISCUSSION:

Each city and county is required, under SB 1383, to divert edible food to feed people in need, assess capacity levels, support food recovery organizations, conduct education on food recovery, and document compliance activities. The Solid Waste Division has collaborated with all county jurisdictions on Food Recovery since 2022, and operationally, it is more efficiently accomplished on a regional basis. This Technical Advisory Committee of local agencies determined a combined effort would be the best approach. Under this concept, the County of Santa Cruz (County) solicited a Requests for Proposals to providers to supply the expertise and resources to perform specific food recovery tasks required by SB 1383. The County would manage the master contract and then invoice each of the individual partner cities for the work provided, through the attached Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The cities would share the costs of the contract based on the percentage of the population they represent, according to the State Department of Finance. The City share would be 19.67% of the contract for an estimated \$51,366.00 of the allotted grant funding from July 2024 – December of 2025. The resulting food recovery services will not only help our community meet our SB 1383

compliance requirements, but more importantly help expand edible food recovery opportunities in the region.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

2-Infrastructure & Environment
6-Community Engagement & Well-being

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The MOU and subsequent partnership contract is fully funded through the CalRecycle grant. There is no impact to the General or Enterprise Funds.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

Without an MOU with the County of Santa Cruz who will contract with the Second Harvest Food Bank, the City of Watsonville may be negligent in accounting for the pounds of food recovered; and will need to internally staff all SB 1383 Food Recovery accounting, reporting, education, and outreach without the expertise of the Food Bank and other jurisdictions.

ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES:

- 1) Draft Memorandum of Understanding for Edible Food Recovery Services