



# STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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January 04, 2023

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**FROM:** Emily Sinkhorn, Director of Environmental Services

**PREPARER:** Emily Benvie, Dep. Director of Environmental Services-Com. Svcs.

**DATE:** December 28, 2022

**TITLE:** **Authorize the City Manager to Sign a Letter of Funding Commitment for the Humboldt County Edible Food Recovery Program.**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Council authorize the City Manager to sign a letter of funding commitment for the Humboldt County Edible Food Recovery Program.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Senate Bill 1383, which addresses short-lived climate pollutants, was signed by Governor Jerry Brown on September 19, 2016. SB 1383 requires rescue of at least 20 percent (20%) of currently disposed edible food. City staff have been actively working the past two years with local jurisdictions to prepare our region to come into compliance with the new provisions of SB 1383.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Since the final implementing regulations of SB 1383 were adopted in November 2020, City staff have been working collaboratively with Humboldt County and other local incorporated jurisdictions to identify opportunities for partnership and to leverage resources to comply with SB 1383. To effectively meet the edible food recovery requirements of SB 1383, staff recommends the City participate in establishing a countywide Edible Food Recovery Program Manager position. This position would be administered by Humboldt County Department of Public Works with support from local jurisdictions.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Senate Bill 1383 requires that 20 percent of all edible food that is being sent to landfills be diverted and used to feed those who are food insecure.

To meet this goal, SB 1383 regulations require businesses that generate sufficient amounts of edible food waste to establish food rescue programs. These businesses are classified by SB 1383 as Tier 1 and Tier 2 Commercial Edible Food Generators, with both Tier 1 and Tier 2 Commercial Edible Food Generators required to come into full compliance by 2024. Beginning in 2023, jurisdictions are required to monitor businesses, conduct outreach, develop edible food recovery programs, keep records, and complete reporting to meet SB 1383 edible food recovery requirements.

To begin to meet these requirements and identify gaps in current edible food recovery programs, several local jurisdictions contributed funds for a contract with Edgar & Associates and subcontractor Abound Food Care to develop an Edible Food Recovery Capacity Study. The study was received at a joint study session of the Humboldt Waste Management Authority and Humboldt County Solid Waste Local Task Force in September 2022 and provided an assessment of the regional capacity of edible food recovery for the jurisdictions in Humboldt County (as required by SB 1383). It included an in-depth survey of local non-profits, a survey of Tier 1 and Tier 2 generators, and detailed recommendations for Humboldt County and incorporated jurisdictions to comply with the food recovery provisions of SB 1383.

Part of the recommendations from the Edible Food Recovery Capacity Study included establishment of an Edible Food Recovery Program Manager. This role would be administered by Humboldt County with support of local participating jurisdictions. In summary, the Manager position would coordinate regional edible food recovery and assist individual jurisdictions with compliance documentation. Edible food recovery collaboration at the regional level will provide an opportunity to most efficiently leverage funding resources, as well achieve consistency for businesses and food recovery organizations across the Humboldt County region.

The attached letter of commitment to share costs serves to document the City's commitment to assist in funding one year of a contracted Edible Food Recovery Program Manager position.

**BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:**

Based on Abound Food Care's estimate, the total cost of the Edible Food Recovery Program Manager for one year will be \$120,000. Funding contributions for each jurisdiction were developed based on participating jurisdictions populations, with the City of Arcata contributing \$16,545.53. This amount would span between FY 2022/2023 and FY 2023/2024 and would be funded by Solid Waste Activity 73.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Draft Edible Food Recovery Program Manager Cost Share Letter-Arcata (DOCX)