Request for Approval

To: ~~**Matt Henigan**~~ **Zoe Heller**
Acting Deputy Director, Materials Management and Local Assistance Division

From: **Michelle Martin**
Branch Chief, Financial Resources Management Branch

Request Date: **February 15, 2022**

Decision Subject: Awards for the Edible Food Recovery Grant Program (Circular Economy Funds, Fiscal Years 2021–22 and 2022–23)

Action By: **March 1, 2022 (Revised July 15, 2022)**

Summary of Request

Staff requests approval of grant awards for the Edible Food Recovery Grant Program (Program) for fiscal years (FY) 2021–22 and 2022–23. Staff received 40 eligible applications totaling $9,317,556 in eligible costs for this competitive grant program.

Funding

The FY 2021–22 Budget Act (Senate Bill 170, Chapter 240, Skinner) includes the Circular Economy Package, which allocates $3,000,000 to the Edible Food Recovery Grant Program for FY 2021–22 and $2,000,000 for FY 2022–23, minus five percent for administration costs. A total of $4,750,000 is available for award, $2,850,000 for FY 2021–22 and $1,900,000 for FY 2022–23 (subject to FY 2022–23 budget approval).

Table 1. Funding

Fund Source	Amount Available	Amount to Fund Item	Amount Remaining	Line Item
Circular Economy -General Fund (FY 2021–22)	$2,850,000	$2,850,000	$0	Local Assistance/Grants
Circular Economy -General Fund (FY 2022–23)	$1,900,000	$1,900,000	$0	Local Assistance/Grants
Total	**$4,750,000**	**$4,750,000**	**$0**	

Background and Findings

Statutory Authority

The Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) administers the Edible Food Recovery Grant Program pursuant to Public Resource Code section 42999.

Program Background

The program provides opportunities for the support of new and expanded edible food recovery (food recovered for human consumption) and food waste prevention projects (source reduction) in California. Projects must reduce the amount of food being disposed in landfills, thereby helping to achieve the state's short-lived climate pollutant goals.

Criteria and Process

The Request for Approval of the Eligibility Criteria, Ranking Criteria, and Evaluation Process was discussed at the November 16, 2021 CalRecycle public meeting after the Deputy Director approved and signed it on November 2, 2021. The Notice of Funds Available was placed on the CalRecycle website on November 4, 2021, with an appropriate notice sent to stakeholders. In addition, the Local Assistance and Market Development Branch, the Environmental Justice Coordinator, and CalRecycle's Tribal Liaison sent the notice via appropriate listservs or email.

Applications were due December 16, 2021, with a secondary due date of January 20, 2022 for Resolution submission. CalRecycle received 61 applications. Staff reviewed the applications in accordance with the approved eligibility and ranking criteria. Seven applications were disqualified by the Fiscal and Process Oversight Unit for incompleteness. The remaining 54 applications were reviewed by staff in the Financial Resources Management Branch and Statewide Technical and Analytical Resources Branch, and 14 applications were subsequently disqualified for ineligible projects.

As a result, there are 40 complete and eligible applications requesting a total of $9,317,556. The minimum grant award is $150,000 and the maximum grant award is $250,000. Staff recommends funding 22 of the 40 eligible applicants over two fiscal years; 13 projects will be funded with FY 2021–22 funds, and 9 projects will be funded with FY 2022–23 funds (subject to FY 2022–23 budget approval). If additional monies become available, staff recommends funding the remaining applicants in the order shown in Table 4.

Unlike previous grant cycles for similar grant programs solicited by CalRecycle, the first cycle of the Edible Food Recovery Grant Program utilizes a ranking system rather than a scoring process. This ranking system prioritizes Qualifying Tribal Entities, applicants benefitting Qualifying Tribal Entities, projects located in counties that have not received a Food Waste Prevention and Rescue Grant Program (FW) award, and counties that have a food insecurity rate above the statewide average of 13.2 percent. The successful application of the ranking system has resulted in recommended funding for five applicants that are, or are benefitting, a Qualifying Tribal Entity, as well as projects located in three counties which have not yet received prior CalRecycle funding for edible food recovery or food waste prevention projects. Out of the 22 projects, 10 projects recommended for funding with the current allocation are located in California counties with an above average food insecurity rate.

The types of projects recommended for funding include implementation of edible food recovery and food waste prevention programs through the purchase and use of equipment such as vehicles to increase recovery capacity, education and outreach campaigns, and in some instances, the construction of larger storage or refrigeration spaces. Eligible projects result in food that would otherwise be destined for landfills being recovered and distributed to people. Any food waste residuals from the food recovered must be composted, sent to a digester, used as animal feed, or otherwise diverted within the project service area, if available. Food waste

prevention projects are only eligible if the proposed grant project also includes an edible food recovery project.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the approval of 13 grant awards for FY 2021–22 as listed below in rank order for $2,850,000, and 9 grant awards for FY 2022–23 for $1,900,000. If additional monies become available, staff recommends funding the remaining projects in the order shown in Table 4.

Table 2. Recommended Awards, Cycle 1 (FY 2021–22)

Applicant	County	Award Amount
Yurok Tribe	Del Norte	$239,102
Fresno Metropolitan Ministry	Fresno	$250,000
North Coast Opportunities, Inc.	Mendocino	$227,965
Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians	Tuolumne	$249,867
ProduceGood	San Diego	$176,256
Yuba-Sutter Gleaners Food Bank, Inc.	Sutter	$250,000
~~Butte County Local Food Network~~[1]	~~Butte~~	~~$250,000~~
United Way of Merced County, Inc.	Merced	$250,000
Laborers of the Harvest	Kern	$250,000
University of California, Los Angeles	Los Angeles	$244,524
God's Pantry	Los Angeles	$250,000
Farming Hope	San Francisco	$156,336
City and County of San Francisco ~~*(partially funded)*~~	San Francisco	~~$55,950~~ $236,000
Porchlight Community Services, Inc. *(partially funded)*	San Diego	$69,950
Total Award - Cycle 1 (FY 2021–22)		**$2,850,000**

[1] Butte County Local Food Network withdrew from the EFR1 cycle after award. To fully utilize funding, awards have been revised and funds reallocated to projects in Rank order.

Table 3. Recommended Awards, Cycle 2 (FY 2022–23)

Applicant	County	Award Amount
~~City and County of San Francisco *(partially funded)*~~	~~San Francisco~~	~~$180,050~~
Porchlight Community Services, Inc. *(partially funded)*	San Diego	~~$242,957~~ $173,007
Feeding the Soul Foundation, Inc. dba O'side Kitchen Collaborative	San Diego	$165,977
City of Menifee	Riverside	$241,360
Common Vision	Alameda	$224,457
Tri-Valley Haven for Women, Inc.	Alameda	$250,000
Madison Materials, Inc.	Orange	$239,867
Orange County	Orange	$150,000
Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano ~~*(partially funded)*~~	Contra Costa	~~$205,332~~ $250,000
White Pony Express *(partially funded)*	Contra Costa	$205,332
Total Award - Cycle 2 (FY 2022–23)		**$1,900,000**

Table 4. Recommended Awards, Additional Funding

Applicant	County	Recommended Award Amount
~~Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano *(partially funded)*~~	~~Contra Costa~~	~~$44,668~~
White Pony Express *(partially funded)*	Contra Costa	~~$250,000~~ $44,668
Oxnard Union High School District	Ventura	$250,000
Loaves & Fishes Family Kitchen	Santa Clara	$244,230
San Jose Conservation Corps	Santa Clara	$249,938
ExtraFood.org	Marin	$200,000
Peninsula Food Runners	San Mateo	$250,000
Community Food Bank of San Benito County	San Benito	$250,000
The Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Los Angeles	Los Angeles	$249,748
The South LA Community Foundation	Los Angeles	$250,000
Feeding San Diego	San Diego	$250,000
Hope 4 The Heart	Alameda	$239,925
Berkeley Food Network	Alameda	$250,000
Food Finders, Inc.	Orange	$250,000
No Time To Waste	Santa Clara	$164,265
City of Burbank	Los Angeles	$249,760
City of Norwalk	Los Angeles	$199,875
City of Paramount	Los Angeles	$249,541
FoodCycle	Los Angeles	$250,000
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank	Los Angeles	$225,606
Total Recommended Award		**$4,317,556**

Deputy Director Action

On the basis of the information and analysis in this Request for Approval and the findings set out herein, I hereby conditionally approve the grant awards for the Edible Food Recovery Grant Program as listed in Table 2 and Table 3. If additional monies become available for the Edible Food Recovery Grant Program, I conditionally approve the grant awards as listed in Table 4. Each proposed grantee's award is subject to three conditions:

1. The recommended grantee must pay all outstanding debts due to CalRecycle, or bring current any outstanding payments owed to CalRecycle, within 60 days of the date of the award email.
2. The recommended grantee's Signature Authority (or where delegation is authorized, his or her Designee) must sign and return the Grant Agreement to CalRecycle. The signed Grant Agreement must be received by CalRecycle within 60 days of the date of the award email.
3. Passage and enrollment of the Fiscal Year 2022–23 Budget Act and availability of funds.

Zoe Heller

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Zoe Heller
Acting Deputy Director

Dated