



CITY OF MENIFEE

SUBJECT: CalRecycle Edible Food Recovery Grant Award

MEETING DATE: November 16, 2022

TO: Mayor and City Council

PREPARED BY: Kori Jones, Senior Management Analyst

REVIEWED BY: Jonathan Nicks, Community Services Director

APPROVED BY: Armando G. Villa, City Manager

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. Accept the CalRecycle Edible Food Recovery Grant in the amount of \$241,360 and authorize City staff to administer the funded project; and
2. Adopt a Budget Amendment Resolution authorizing an increase in revenue and appropriation of expenditures in the amount of \$241,360 to a program account as assigned by the Finance Department; and
3. Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute all necessary documents to implement the funded programs.

DISCUSSION

Senate Bill (SB) 1383 requires local jurisdictions to establish capacity for both organic waste materials as well as recovered edible food. Under California law, businesses that sell or provide food items, packaged or prepared, are required to establish agreements with a certified food recovery agency to collect and donate any unused edible food items. This mandate extends to most large retailers and restaurants, school districts, hospitals, hospitality, and some smaller establishments.

Jurisdictions, such as Menifee, are required under SB 1383 to provide education, outreach, as well as enforcement through local ordinance. In August 2022, cities were required to report to the State, via the County, its verifiable capacity for organic waste recycling and edible food recovery. While capacity for collection and recycling organic waste materials has been established through the City's Agreement with Waste Management to utilize the hauler's Tulare facility, initial estimates indicated over 100-ton deficit in our capacity for edible food recovery. This issue is consistent across most cities within Riverside County that lack the infrastructure to meet the state's goals.

In October 2021, Community Services staff met with Menifee Valley Community Cupboard (MVCC) to discuss capacity and expansion capabilities. MVCC is Menifee's only certified recovery agency that holds a Distribution Agreement with Feeding America and has existing relationships with many area businesses. MVCC has been an active food pantry serving the Menifee community for over 25 years and has been a great partner to the City. MVCC currently operates out of the Cherry Hills Plaza in Sun City. This non-profit, consisting primarily of volunteer workers, collects nearly 200,000 lbs. (or 100 tons) of food and assists roughly 700 Menifee families each year. MVCC has a long-standing Feedstock Agreement with Domenigoni Farms for the transfer of unused donations.

On January 19, 2022, City Council passed a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute necessary grant documents and to submit a joint application alongside MVCC, as was required under the grant application process. City staff, along with MVCC, responded to the call for projects under CalRecycle's Edible Food Recovery Grant (EFRG) Program and were included as part of the second-round funding awardees. The EFRG Program is an annual competitive grant which primarily awards to counties and waste districts. Menifee is just one of two cities, in the state (and the only city in Riverside County) to receive funding under this Program. The funded project includes the addition of climate controls to an MVCC container to allow for the storage of semi-perishable goods, upgrades to the kitchen preparation area to allow for processing and repackaging of bulk item donations, as well as an additional collection/distribution vehicle. These improvements will more than double the capacity of MVCC and position their operation to expand to satellite distribution sites in both Romoland and Quail Valley, two of the communities most underserved and vulnerable areas. While the need of food donations has stabilized due to the school district free lunch program, demand is expected to increase as these programs expire and as the City population continues to grow. Staff recommends that Council move forward with approving the acceptance of the grant to support the continued partnership with a critical local resource, such as MVCC.

STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE

Accessible and Interconnected Community

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact from the acceptance of the Edible Food Recover Grant would result in an increase of \$241,360 in grant revenue and corresponding appropriation in expenditure accounts as assigned by the Finance Department, including a \$7,500 transfer from the Grant Fund into General Fund to fund personnel overhead associated with direct City staff providing grant management and reporting for this Project.

ATTACHMENTS

1. CalRecycle's Award Notification EFRG
2. Grant Summary Report
3. Budget Amendment Resolution – CalRecycle's Edible Food Recovery Grant