

# MEMO



**Presentations**  
**Item #: 6**

Meeting Date: July 21, 2023

To: Board of Directors  
From: Communications and Public Education Manager, Kristin O'Hara  
Approved by: General Manager, Felipe Melchor

**Subject:** Remaining FY 22/23 Edible Food Recovery Funds Awarded to Pajaro Valley Loaves & Fishes for Capacity Building under SB 1383

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## Recommendation

That the Board receive this report.

## Background

The Edible Food Recovery Grant is funded by SB 1383 shared costs MOU between member agencies. ReGen Monterey and Salinas Valley Recycles each budgeted \$50,000 for FY 22/23, which totals \$100,000 of grant funding. The ReGen Monterey Board approved the SB 1383 Edible Food Recovery Grant funding opportunity process at the May 20, 2022 and October 21, 2022 meetings. This is the second competitive grant funding cycle to support continued capacity building throughout the region.

Eligible food rescue organizations were identified on findings from the 2021 Edible Food Recovery Capacity Planning Assessment with a goal to increase edible food recovery capacity countywide in support of the region's compliance with SB 1383.

Approximately 15 edible food recovery organizations were encouraged to apply for grant funding and priority was given to organizations who applied for FY 21/22 funding but were not awarded due to high response. Organizations could apply for grants of \$1,000 up to a maximum award of \$20,000. The average grant award for food recovery organizations under this solicitation was anticipated to be \$5,000 to \$10,000.

On the grant application, each organization had to provide a baseline of their current capacity in either number of pounds of edible food collection, pounds of food distributed, number of donations accepted, meals served, or number of individuals served. The application asked how funding would increase capacity to accept and distribute more edible food donations, and what the estimated impact would be in terms of pounds, donations, meals, or individuals served on a monthly or annual basis. Organizations were asked to create an expense summary of how grant funds would be used. Multiple organizations identified funds would be used to purchase additional shelving, refrigeration and freezer units, pallet jacks, and contribute to vehicle

### Physical Address

14201 Del Monte Blvd.  
Salinas, CA 93908

### Mailing Address

P.O. Box 1670  
Marina, CA 93933

### Phone / Fax

831-384-5313 PHONE  
831-384-3567 FAX

### Web / Social

ReGenMonterey.org  
@ReGenMonterey

*Let's not waste this.*



purchases for transportation. All projects had to be justified and detail how the expense would increase edible food storage capacity.

### **Discussion**

Five organizations were selected to receive grant funding from the second cycle for FY 22/23 funding. The total amount awarded was \$75,950 out of a \$100,000 budget. The remaining funds of the second grant cycle, less grant administrative costs, are \$10,025.

After the storms in early 2023 that flooded the community of Pajaro, ReGen Monterey and Salinas Valley Recycles decided to offer the remaining \$10,025 in capacity building grant funds to Pajaro Valley Loaves & Fishes to support increased demand. The grant administrator, Blue Strike Environmental, reached out to Pajaro Valley Loaves & Fishes recommending that a proposal be submitted for consideration. In June 2023, Pajaro Valley Loaves and Fishes submitted a proposal to utilize the remainder of the unspent grant funds for staff time serving the community. ReGen Monterey and Salinas Valley Recycles agreed to accept the proposal to assist with their current needs in serving the Pajaro community.

### **Financial Impact**

None

### **Strategic Plan**

None

### **Conclusion**

It is with pleasure that we present pilot funds to the above edible food recovery organizations on behalf the member agencies we serve.