



## City of Needles, California Request for City Council Action

☒ CITY COUNCIL ☐ NPUA

☒ Regular ☐ Special

**Meeting Date:** February 13, 2024

**Title:** Award the 2024 Edible Food Recovery Grant

**Background:** In September 2016, Governor Brown signed into law SB 1383 which establishes targets to achieve a 75 percent reduction in the level of the statewide disposal of organic waste by 2025. Food recovery means collecting edible food that would otherwise go to waste and redistributing it to feed people in need. This is the highest and best use for food that would otherwise go to waste. Feeding hungry people through food recovery is the best use for surplus food and a vital way for California to conserve resources and reduce waste thrown in landfills. SB 1383 requires certain food businesses to donate the maximum amount of edible food they would otherwise dispose, to food recovery organizations. While the City of Needles has an organic disposal program waiver, staff efforts have been on educating and supporting edible food recovery.

The City of Needles has provided a local non-profit edible food recovery past for the past two years. The funding is from the Mojave Desert and Mountain Recycling Authority. Funds are to be used to support the local non-profits expenses associated with edible food recovery.

St. Vincent De Paul has been awarded the 2022 and 2023 edible food grant. For 2024 staff released an edible food recovery program proposal application to St. Vincent De Paul, Set Free and Firehouse Ministries. Each local non-profit submitted the attached proposal.

Provide staff recommendation on awarding the 2024 Edible Food Recovery Grant. The awarded non-profit(s) will be required to report annual tonnage of edible food recovered in the community. Staff will utilize the reporting for annual compliance with CalRecycle.

At the January 23, 2024 City Council Meeting the council took the following actions:

- Longbrake voted against dividing the funds equally among the three entities
- Longbrake voted against \$2k to firehouse; \$2k to St. Paul and \$1k to Set Free.
- Pogue voted against splitting the funds between St. Paul and Firehouse.

The item was continued to February 13, 2024, due to not reaching a consensus on the matter.

**Fiscal Impact:** Funds will be provided by Mojave Desert and Mountain Recycling Authority and distributed by the City of Needles in February 2024.

**Environmental Impact:** Program will support edible food recovery and reduce waste being sent to the landfill.

**Recommended Action:** Award the 2024 Edible Food Recovery Grant

**Submitted By:** Rainie Torrance, Utility Manager

**City Manager Approval:** Patrick J. Martinez

Date: 2/6/2024

**Other Department Approval (when required):** Barbara DiLeo

Date: 02/07/24

Approved: ☐

Not Approved: ☐

Tabled: ☐

Other: ☐

Agenda Item: \_\_\_\_\_