




**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** June 13, 2025

**TO:** GEORGEANNE A. WHITE, City Manager  
Office of the Mayor and City Manager

**FROM:** BROCK D. BUCHE, PE, PLS, Director   
Department of Public Utilities

**BY:** PAUL AMICO, PE, Assistant Director   
Department of Public Utilities – Administration

**SUBJECT: UNIQUELY QUALIFIED AFFIRMATION OF THE CENTRAL  
CALIFORNIA FOOD BANK, TO PROVIDE EDIBLE FOOD RECOVERY  
SERVICES WITHIN THE CITY OF FRESNO**

The purpose of this memorandum is to request the City Manager establish Central California Food Bank (CCFB) as uniquely qualified to provide edible food recovery services within the City of Fresno (City). This uniquely qualified determination is requested pursuant to Administrative Order 06-19 and would allow the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) to forego the standard Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process and enter directly into a Service Agreement (Attachment 1) with CCFB to allocate grant funds to their local operations.

On February 1, 2023, DPU was issued a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) by CalRecycle identifying key compliance deficiencies under Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383), which mandates statewide organic waste reduction and edible food recovery. Among the required tasks outlined in the CAP was the need to enhance public education efforts related to edible food recovery and promote awareness of local Food Recovery Programs (FRPs).

On November 15, 2023, the DPU Solid Waste Management Division applied for CalRecycle's SB 1383 Local Assistance Grant Program to support the City's efforts to meet CAP requirements. The City was awarded \$1,415,099 under this program, with \$300,000 as designated funds for public outreach on edible food recovery and to highlight the ongoing work of local FRPs.

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As DPU continues the implementation of both the CAP and the grant-funded work plan, a need has emerged to support and elevate the operations of local Food Recovery Organizations who are actively diverting edible food from our landfills. CCFB, the largest emergency food provider in Central California, plays a central role in recovering surplus edible food and redistributing it to food-insecure communities across Fresno and neighboring areas.

CCFB's established recovery partnerships with over 230 local grocery stores, food service providers, and wholesalers directly align with the intent of SB 1383, which mandates the recovery of edible food that would otherwise be disposed. Since 2017, CCFB has diverted 189,000,000 lbs of food which would otherwise have become refuse in landfills. In 2023 alone, CCFB diverted an estimated 812,273 lbs of food within the city of Fresno.

Due to its extensive operational network, deep community ties, and proven track record in food recovery and redistribution, CCFB is uniquely qualified to assist the City in meeting its compliance obligations while also addressing community food insecurity through expanded recovery and redistribution channels.


Their established distribution channels reach hundreds of local nonprofits, food pantries, and direct service sites throughout Fresno and surrounding counties. This infrastructure not only maximizes the volume of edible food recovered, but also ensures it is delivered to those in our community who are most in need.

Given their unmatched regional footprint, logistical capacity, and integration into the local food recovery ecosystem, no other organization is positioned to fulfill this role with the same level of effectiveness. Staff therefore recommend that the City Manager find CCFB uniquely qualified to assist with this portion of the City's SB 1383 compliance efforts and authorize DPU to proceed with a service agreement accordingly.

  
\_\_\_\_ Approved

\_\_\_\_ Denied

  
\_\_\_\_  
Georgianne A. White, City Manager

  
\_\_\_\_  
Date