



DATE: February 8, 2024

TO: Planning Committee/Recycling Board

FROM: Meri Soll, Senior Program Manager
Cassie Bartholomew, Senior Program Manager

SUBJECT: Waste Prevention Grants Program Update

SUMMARY

The Agency utilizes several approaches to support waste prevention and build upstream infrastructure in Alameda County. One such approach is our long-running waste prevention grants program. For the Waste Prevention Grant 2024 Solicitation round, we are offering \$1.1 million in funding for local nonprofits, businesses, and institutions for innovative projects focused on waste prevention and building upstream infrastructure through repair, reuse, redistribution, food waste prevention and recovery, and food donation equipment. The program engages businesses, school districts, and community-based organizations to reduce waste in Alameda County while helping to address some of the County's most pressing environmental and equity issues. In addition, these grant projects help member agencies advance their sustainability goals. Since 1996, StopWaste has provided more than \$10 million in grant funding.

DISCUSSION

Local community-based organizations, school districts, and businesses have a critical role in preventing waste and shaping a more circular, resilient, inclusive economy. The grants program offers entities an opportunity to jump start an idea or advance concepts that prioritize upstream source reduction and reuse measures over recycling, composting, and landfilling. Funding priorities are reviewed yearly, and shift depending on Agency priorities and needs in the community.

Over the years, the Agency has also increased funding and assistance to entities helping to meet requirements in state laws such as SB 1383 and the Plastics Pollution Prevention and Producer Responsibility Act (SB 54). For example, an increase in funding for food recovery helps build organizational capacity to recover and distribute donated food to meet SB 1383 mandates, while the boost in funding for reusable foodware implementation reduces reliance on single-use packaging and builds infrastructure ahead of SB 54.

Staff will provide an overview of the upcoming grants solicitation which will include details related to the different grant categories, implementation of a new web-based platform to improve

accessibility for grant applicants and to streamline the reporting processes, steps to apply for grant funding, and the review and selection process.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information only.