



DATE: September 27, 2023

TO: Waste Management Authority (WMA) Board

FROM: Cassie Bartholomew, Senior Program Manager
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SUBJECT: Alameda County Food Recovery Network Update

SUMMARY

For the past decade, StopWaste has been strengthening our partnerships with food recovery organizations to better understand their growing needs. As part of this work, StopWaste regularly convenes the Alameda County Food Recovery Network, comprised of a group of diverse food recovery organizations operating throughout the county. At the September 27 board meeting, staff will provide an overview of the network and examples of how the network supports the vital work that food recovery partners are leading in the county to address food insecurity and reduce food waste.

DISCUSSION

StopWaste formed the Alameda County Food Recovery Network to help expand capacity and food recovery coordination in the county. The network includes a wide range of food recovery organizations and other community groups (faith-based organizations, housing agencies, etc.), all working to help facilitate the rescue and/or redistribution of edible surplus food. They are united by a common goal to ensure that surplus edible food is put to its highest and best use—to nourish people. The network provides a space for collaboration, connection, relationship building, and learning to strengthen the county's food recovery landscape.

Over 35 organizations joined the first network meeting in 2021 which focused on providing information and gathering feedback on the food donation aspects of SB 1383 regulations. Over 50 organizations now participate in monthly meetings to collaborate on topics ranging from SB 1383 edible food recovery implementation, building efficiency into food recovery operations, and enhancing the network's collective contribution to building an equitable, healthy community food system in Alameda County.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information only.