



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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July 20, 2020

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **EP-7**

Dear Recycling Coordinators and City Representatives,

SENATE BILL 1383 FOOD DONATION REQUIREMENT

As you may be aware, Senate Bill 1383, among other things, requires every jurisdiction to develop a food donation program. Not only is it a Statewide requirement, but there is a significant social need to expand food donation. Each year, businesses and residents in Los Angeles County throw away over 2.5 billion pounds of food, equivalent to about 2 billion meals, while 1 in 7 people are food insecure. This statistic is even worse for children, where 1 out of 5 lack regular access to nutritious food.

Los Angeles County Public Works launched the Food Donation and Recovery Outreach Program (Food DROP) in January 2018 to address these needs in the Unincorporated Los Angeles County, however the information and resources can be utilized throughout the entire Los Angeles County. Food DROP's priorities are to raise awareness of food insecurity, reduce food waste, and fight hunger by connecting businesses with excess food to non-profits that distribute the food to those in need. We believe our program can be a good model for Cities to consider and welcome review of our process, outreach materials, and other resources.

Public Works may be able to assist you to get implement or expand a similar program if you are already underway, as the Senate Bill 1383 organic waste regulations will require all jurisdictions to implement an edible food recovery program to identify and educate commercial edible food generators, monitor food recovery activities, and increase edible food recovery capacity. In order to help the most people in need and maximize the amount of edible food kept from being disposed, we would like to coordinate among all Cities. Together, we can share what has been developed to comply with this requirement of the regulation and learn best practices in diverting surplus edible food.

Specifically, Food DROP provides resources for businesses operating in Los Angeles County to safely donate their excess edible food. In the past 2 years, Food DROP identified large edible food generating businesses in the Unincorporated Los Angeles County, conducted site visits/phone surveys, provided educational outreach and consultations to the identified businesses, and connected them with non-profit partners

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to donate excess food and divert edible food from ending up in landfills. Additional details on Food DROP and information that can be used for your outreach efforts can be found at www.FoodDROPLA.com.

Whether you already have an existing food recovery program within your jurisdiction, currently in the planning process, or not sure where to start, we would like to hear about your food recovery plans and experience and see how we can assist. At your convenience, please contact our Food DROP team at FoodDROPLA@pw.lacounty.gov or 626-458-3554.

Very truly yours,

MARK PESTRELLA
Director of Public Works



COBY J. SKYE
Assistant Deputy Director
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