

October 1, 2022

CalRecycle Grants and Loans Program 1001 I Street, P.O. Box 4025 Sacramento, CA 95812

RE: City of San Luis Obispo (SLO) Application for Beverage Container Recycling Grant

Dear Grant Administrators:

Downtown SLO strongly supports the City of SLO's application for the Beverage Container Recycling Grant. This funding will help the City of SLO collect more beverage containers in locations where current beverage container collection is lacking, specifically at our downtown public park and adjacent high-traffic public use areas. Establishing a new collection method for beverage container recycling is desperately needed in these downtown areas to reduce littering and to protect our local creek environment from waste.

Downtown San Luis Obispo is the employment and cultural center for the entire county. Each year, thousands of visitors come to enjoy shopping, restaurants, and special events. Every Thursday, thousands of people visit downtown for its evening Farmers' Market event, where vendors serve food and drink and people gather to hang out and listen to music. In addition to the regular stream of visitors to historic Mission Plaza, the park hosts frequent events that draw thousands, including the Friday night summertime Concerts season that our organization presents. The City of SLO is committed to adopting new methods of collection that can handle this high use and ensure CRV beverage containers can be recycled appropriately.

Downtown SLO would be pleased to partner with the City of SLO on outreach efforts that educate and encourage downtown and Farmers' Market visitors and vendors to use the solid waste and recycle receptacles, and the benefits of doing so. This partnered outreach will be accomplished through information in the weekly email that is sent to our member businesses, as well as signage placed throughout the farmers' market.

We are grateful that CalRecycle provides funding to support municipalities in modernizing and expanding their beverage container recycling efforts, and we hope you will consider funding the City of SLO's request. It will do so much to beautify our downtown.

Sincerely,

CEO, Downtown SLO





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RE: City of San Luis Obispo (SLO) Application for Beverage Container Recycling Grant

Dear Grant Administrators:

Visit SLO CAL, the destination marketing and management organization for San Luis Obispo County (SLO CAL), strongly supports the City of San Luis Obispo's (SLO) application for the Beverage Container Recycling Grant.

Tourism is the second largest industry in SLO CAL. Each year, more than 7.3 million visitors come to SLO CAL to enjoy our region's shopping, restaurants, attractions, and special events. A primary attraction for visitors is the city's vibrant downtown area, home of the famous Thursday night farmer's market which draws 8,000 visitors per week. Vendors serve food and drink, and people gather to hang out and listen to music. The Mission Plaza is another important venue that draws thousands of visitors to the downtown area. The Plaza hosts frequent historical and cultural events enjoyed by both visitors and residents.

These and other high-traffic events in SLO generate significant recyclable waste. Expanding the city's smart waste and recycling capability is vital to maintaining the beauty, cleanliness, and sustainability of SLO. It will also help ensure we maintain visitor satisfaction and resident quality of life.

The City of SLO is committed to adopting new methods of collection that can handle this high use and ensure CRV beverage containers can be recycled appropriately. CalRecycle's grant funding will help the City of SLO collect more beverage containers in locations where current beverage container collection is lacking, specifically at our downtown public parks and adjacent high-traffic public use areas. Establishing a new collection method for beverage container recycling is desperately needed in these downtown areas to reduce littering, protect our local creek environment from waste, and allow for materials recovery.



We are grateful that CalRecycle provides funding to support municipalities in modernizing and expanding their beverage container recycling efforts, and we hope you will strongly consider and support the City of SLO's funding request.

Yours truly,

Tracy Campbell

Vice President of Community Engagement and Advocacy

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Visit SLO CAL