



August 13, 2018

Patrick Carter  
Sonoma County Waste Management Agency  
2300 County Center Dr. B100  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Re: Municipal composting in Sonoma County

Community Alliance with Family Farmers North Coast Chapter and The Farmers Guild would like to express our community's overwhelming support for the re-establishment of a municipal composting operation. After extensive outreach to our local family farmers, gardeners and local food advocates, it is evident that re-closing the loop on green waste within county lines and providing an accessible supply of high-quality compost products is a top priority for many in this county.

The lack of quality compost in volume since the closure of the previous program three years ago has been a serious problem for our members. Much higher cost of compost and higher has proven a hardship. Meanwhile, the outhaul costs—both to our tax base and to the environment—fly in the face of our reputation as both as agricultural and environmental exemplar. We all eagerly await the return of local, municipal compost.

After consulting with our community of family farmers, we have assembled a list of qualities that we feel are most needed and that we hope will guide you in your selection of a proposal, among the many you've so far received. We would like to see a composting operation that:

- Produces compost products that are:
  - Organically certified
  - Moist, and *not* hydrophobic
  - Rich in organic matter
  - Free of weed seeds, pesticides, herbicides, hormones and other contaminants, and is regularly and rigorously tested (and intermittently by a third party), with results made available to the public/consumer

- Available at different qualities and price points
- Well-aged/stable and ready for use
- Makes concerted efforts to incorporate environmentally-sound practices and additional greenhouse gas-reducing elements into their operation
- Provides an easy, timely and affordable system for dumping green waste
- Has a good track record of success providing quality products to our community
- Collaborates with community groups, green businesses and local agencies to educate the public about the importance of composting, green-bin best practices and a closed green waste loop.
- Educates the public, policymakers and businesses about the limitations of many products currently marketed as “compostible” (i.e. single-use dinnerware, etc.) and advocates for innovations to ensure real-world combability
- Regularly solicits and responds to feedback from the small and family farm community
- Respects the right and value of on-farm composting and will not actively lobby for holding small farms producing their own compost to the same standards as large, commercial facilities

Thank you for considering the perspective of our family farmers and for ensuring that a healthy, productive, local green waste stream remains a pillar of our county’s commitment to sustainability.

Wendy Krupnick  
Vice president  
CAFF NC

Evan Wiig  
Director of Membership & Communications  
CAFF & The Farmers Guild

CC: SCWMA Board of Directors

**Board Member Roster**

- Susan Gorin      County of Sonoma
- Melanie Bagby   City of Cloverdale
- Susan Harvey    City of Cotati
- Larry Zimmer    City of Healdsburg
- Dan St. John      City of Petaluma
- Pam Stafford      City of Rohnert Park
- John Sawyer      City of Santa Rosa
- Henry Mikus       City of Sebastopol
- Madolyn Agrimonti   City of Sonoma
- Debora Fudge    Town of Windsor

**Agency Counsel**

- Ethan Walsh