



March 1, 2022

Leslie Lukacs
Executive Director
Zero Waste Sonoma
2300 County Center Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

RE: Support for a Green Waste Processing Facility in Sonoma County

Dear Ms. Lukacs,

The Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District (NSCAPCD) is one of 35 state air pollution control districts and it has jurisdiction in the northern section of Sonoma County. The NSCAPCD is governed by a Board of Directors with county representatives from supervisorial districts 4 (James Gore) and 5 (Lynda Hopkins), and with city councilmember representatives from Windsor (Sam Salmon), Healdsburg (Ariel Kelley) and Cloverdale (Joe Palla).

A core tenet of NSCAPCD's legislative platform is the support of green waste facilities and biomass utilization businesses to reduce landfill methane emissions and to utilize excess biomass to help restore and maintain healthy forest ecosystems. These facilities can receive excess forest fuels to help prevent wildfires and the associated hazardous air quality events from wildfire smoke. Furthermore, these facilities can also support composting efforts that help sequester carbon and create valuable soil amendments that also help to reduce water use.

NSCAPCD recognizes that with the closure of the county's last commercial green waste facility in 2015, and stalled negotiations for a new facility, that there is no green waste facility in our sights for the near future. The yard debris, vegetative food waste, and recyclable wood collected from county refuse disposal sites and from weekly pickup of residential curbside green waste now gets trucked and processed at sites in Mendocino, Napa, and Marin counties. Hauling Sonoma County's growing volume of organic waste to outside composting sites adds vehicle criteria pollutants, toxics, and greenhouse gases to our air pollution inventory.

Clean Air. **Good Living.**

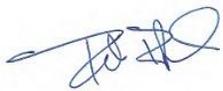


California cities and counties are mandated by state law to make significant inroads on diverting organic waste from landfills under Senate Bill 1383. The stated intent of the Legislature is to support the adoption of policies that improve organics recycling and innovative, cost effective, and environmentally beneficial uses of biomethane derived from solid waste facilities.

The law calls for mandatory organic waste collection from residential and commercial entities as well as edible food recovery from large commercial food producers to avoid waste and support services to those who are food insecure. Among its provisions are methane emissions reduction targets that reduce the landfill disposal of organics: a 50% reduction in the level of the statewide disposal of organic waste from the 2014 level by 2020 and A 75% reduction in the level of the statewide disposal of organic waste from the 2014 level by 2025.

Due to the air quality benefits, and for all the important reasons above, NSCAPCD supports the development of a local green waste disposal facility. We continue to support local innovation and biomass businesses like the ones which received funding from NSCAPCD within its Biomass Business Competition (www.biomass.biz) in 2021. We stand ready to collaborate with Zero Waste Sonoma, Sonoma County, our cities, and other government and non-governmental partners to move Sonoma County forward on the management of biomass waste, and organic waste more generally.

Thank you for your time. Sincerely,



Rob Bamford
Executive Officer / APCO
Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District

ECC: NSCAPCD Board of Directors:

- Ariel Kelley, Healdsburg
- Lynda Hopkins, Sonoma County District 5
- James Gore, Sonoma County District 4
- Joe Palla, Cloverdale
- Sam Salmon, Windsor

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