



SIERRA CLUB

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SONOMA GROUP

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Dear Dan Galvin, Chair, Santa Rosa Board of Public Utilities

Sonoma County needs a local compost facility as soon as possible. Renewable Sonoma has chosen a site for one at the Laguna Treatment plant where biosolids are currently processed. We are asking the City of Santa Rosa make that site available to Renewable Sonoma, acknowledging that the appropriate environmental review will be carried out.

Since Sonoma Compost closed, organics have been out-hauled to facilities out of Sonoma County which is increasing GHG in transportation and in methane released from the landfill where organics are disposed of improperly. Out-hauling decreases the ability of landscapers, agriculture and gardeners to have access to high quality inexpensive compost needed to keep soils healthy and more capable of sequestering carbon, again helping decrease our carbon footprint.

Renewable Sonoma's partner, Sonoma Compost, has a proven track record in Sonoma County of producing a reliable product, and has experience in compost facilities. Renewable Sonoma promises to bring that history of a good relationship with local business and create a state-of-the-art compost facility at the Laguna Treatment Center.

The Regional Climate Protection Plan needs as many entities as possible focusing on reducing our carbon footprint. One of Renewable Sonoma's main efforts is to help farmers and landscapers to use soil management practices that mitigate climate change. With last year's devastating fires here and globally, past droughts and rising summer heat we have to take swift action to aid any regional policy or local business to address this problem.

Please consider such swift action in allowing Renewable Sonoma to utilize the Laguna Treatment Plant's site to begin the process of creating a new compost facility.

Sincerely,

Richard Sachen, Chair, Sierra Club Sonoma Group

Theresa Ryan, executive committee member, Sierra Club Sonoma Group

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Executive committee member, Sierra Club Sonoma Group