



*StopWaste is the Alameda County Waste Management Authority, the Alameda County Source Reduction and Recycling Board, and the Energy Council operating as one public agency.*

*Member Agencies:*

Alameda County  
Alameda  
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Berkeley  
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Sanitary District

1537 Webster Street  
Oakland, CA 94612

p 510-891-6500  
f 510-893-2308  
[www.stopwaste.org](http://www.stopwaste.org) 

March 27, 2024

County of Santa Clara  
70 West Hedding, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Jose, CA 95110-1705

RE: Letter of Commitment for the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program:  
Implementation Grants General Competition

Dear Cayce Hill,

On behalf of StopWaste, I am pleased to provide this letter expressing our organization's commitment to helping Santa Clara County reach the goals outlined in their proposal:  
Implementing Innovative Approaches: Greater Bay Area.

The Alameda County Waste Management Authority, doing business as "StopWaste," is committed to assisting businesses, residents, and schools in Alameda County to waste less, recycle properly, and utilize resources efficiently. As a public agency we have consistently pursued initiatives to address environmental challenges and promote sustainability.

StopWaste's Food Waste Reduction initiatives support innovative upstream food waste prevention and recovery activities to reduce the greenhouse gas impacts when food goes to waste. Over the past decade, we have cultivated strong relationships with food recovery organizations across Alameda County, engaging in conversations around tackling food insecurity, planning for the needs of these organizations during the rule-making process for SB 1383 and building a resilient and inclusive regional food system. Since 2021, we have convened the Alameda County Food Recovery Network (ACFRN), which serves as a space for over 50 food recovery organizations, city staff, and other groups like housing agencies and faith-based groups to connect and share resources on how to facilitate the recovery of edible surplus food and redirect it to community members seeking food assistance.

The proposed Climate Pollutant Reduction Grant (CRPG) project presents an exciting opportunity to further enhance our food waste reduction efforts. We are particularly enthusiastic about the infusion of EPA funding and the capacity building initiatives that will bolster our collective ability to tackle food waste challenges effectively across three counties. Our longstanding partnership with Joint Ventures Silicon Valley underscores our commitment to collaborative action. StopWaste and Joint Ventures have worked closely together at the state and local level holding executive positions on the California Resource

Recovery Association Edible Food Recovery Technical Council. Since 2018, Joint Ventures and StopWaste have coordinated approaches to providing support for Food Recovery Organizations who are facing increased demand for their services to pick up surplus food but are receiving little to no technical or financial support.

StopWaste is fully committed to collaborating on this CRPG grant by coordinating with our network of food recovery partners (ACFRN), Santa Clara County, San Benito County and Joint Ventures Silicon Valley to ensure planning and implementation of the proposed edible food recovery deliverables are consistent. We are committed to providing staff time and the necessary resources to support staff involvement, including administrative support, office space, computers, phones, printers, and other materials as needed, to support the goals of this project.

Moreover, our history of successful collaboration with County of Santa Clara on compost use, dates to the early 2000s, when staff at StopWaste and Santa Clara County developed sustainable landscaping practices to increase the use of compost, which are now implemented statewide. We have continued to work together through joint meetings of our Technical Advisory Committees, leadership in statewide organics technical councils, creating tools and resources to help our local jurisdictions comply with SB 1383 requirements to procure compost, and most recently, by convening with other local agencies to propose legislation to develop and expand markets for compost. In 2022, we also worked with Zero Foodprint to road test a program to provide more affordable compost to farmers, while helping local jurisdictions comply with SB 1383's procurement requirements.

StopWaste is strongly committed to continuing to work with Zero Foodprint and County of Santa Clara to advancing and expanding compost use on rangeland. StopWaste's direct experience applying compost on the agency's rangeland property in and measuring the soil carbon benefits will help inform the expansion of the compost application to grazing lands throughout the two counties. Additionally, the proposed projects and funding to expand compost use directly support the Compost for Agriculture program, currently being developed by the Alameda County Resource Conservation District in partnership with StopWaste.

Food waste reduction and expanding compost use are priority activities for StopWaste, and we are strongly committed to this collaboration and to dedicating the resources necessary to achieve the goals of this grant.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy Burroughs", written in a cursive style.

Timothy Burroughs  
Executive Director