

March 20, 2024

Michele Young, Senior Management Analyst  
County of Santa Clara  
1553 Berger Dr  
San Jose, CA 95112

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

Dear Michele,

I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the Santa Clara County Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation proposal. I believe this initiative laid forth in the proposal presents a sound strategy for achieving the goals of the EPA CPRG Program.

Extensive field studies conducted by my colleagues in the research group of Dr. Rebecaa Ryals at UC Merced and others provide a robust scientific foundation for applying compost to rangelands. This practice not only contributes to long-term carbon sequestration but also enhances soil properties, including increased water infiltration and decreasing soil density. A recent review article coauthored by Dr. Ryals, "Compost amendment to enhance carbon sequestration in rangelands" (Journal of Soil and Water Conservation, 2023, 78: 163-177), summarizes numerous studies whose findings support the rationale for implementing a larger-scale plan as you describe in your proposal.

As a soil carbon expert working with University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources & University of California, Merced, I am happy to provide support for the project in an advisory role to assess soil carbon sequestration estimates. Amendment of rangeland soils with compost holds immense potential to enhance ecosystem resilience and promote carbon sequestration. Furthermore, its application can foster a holistic connection between food and waste cycles within the region while boosting productivity for grazing animals.

Thank you for your dedication to environmental stewardship, and I look forward to our continued interactions as you progress on this vital initiative.

Sincerely,

*Srabani Das*

Srabani Das, PhD  
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