

March 19, 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,

On behalf of the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE), I am pleased to provide this letter expressing our organization's commitment to helping Santa Clara County reach the goals outlined in the Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation proposal.

The priority measures outlined in the proposal will help San Benito and Santa Clara Counties meet California's SB 1383 diversion and procurement requirements by building out infrastructure to handle waste and compost capacity needs and establish incentive programs to encourage appropriate organic waste handling in the region. The establishment of a regional compost broker program will serve as a centralized platform connecting compost producers with agricultural entities and other end users, to identify locations for compost application. The initiative will also develop a carbon credit program designed to generate verifiable carbon credits from compost application. Finally, the proposal outlines the establishment of local food recovery infrastructure hubs dedicated to food recovery and redistribution efforts.

This proposal to the EPA CPRG program is fully aligned with the UCCE mission to develop and apply science-based solutions that support sustainable agriculture and bolster community resilience in California.

UCCE maintains a robust partnership with the County of Santa Clara. Our cooperative agreement includes oversight of the Compost Education Program and the Community Compost Demonstration site at Martial Cottle Park. UCCE Santa Clara County also houses a Small Farms Program that provides technical support and actively educates farmers of diverse backgrounds on county and statewide initiatives to adopt climate-smart practices.

To help ensure the long-term success of the proposed regional compost broker program, UCCE will disseminate the findings and lessons from this project to our extensive network of compost producers, small farmers, and land managers, thereby facilitating the expansion this practice to working private lands. Additionally, in collaboration with the Resource Conservation Districts



(RCDs) in Alameda and San Mateo Counties, which border Santa Clara County and have experience with compost-to-rangelands initiatives, we will develop standardized operating practices tailored for the region. These guidelines will address considerations such as terrain and soil-specific application rates. Collaborating with the RCDs we will offer technical assistance, including conducting site assessments, and communicate with stakeholders the benefits and costs associated with adopting this climate-smart land management strategy.

In conclusion, we offer our full support to the county's proposal to the EPA CPRG program. With our established partnership and expertise, we are confident in our ability to contribute effectively to the success of initiatives aimed at promoting composting and carbon credit programs. Together, we can make a significant impact in fostering environmental stewardship and advancing innovative solutions for a more sustainable future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheila Barry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sheila" and the last name "Barry" clearly distinguishable.

Sheila Barry, PhD
Santa Clara County, Alameda County, and Contra Costa County Director
University of California Cooperative Extension