



Agenda Report

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, February 21, 2023

TO: City Council

FROM: INTERIM PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DIRECTOR VIDES
ASST PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DIRECTOR GREEN
SR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS ANALYST STOLZENTHALER

THROUGH: CITY MANAGER MENDEZ

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY COMPOST GIVE BACK PRESENTATION

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

No action is required by the City Council. Council will be informed about the beneficial Community Compost Give Back to residents.

BACKGROUND:

Free community compost will be available for City residents starting March 1, 2023, at the Watsonville Recycling & Waste Center. This high-quality compost is the benefit of successful organic green cart collections by Watsonville residents and businesses.

DISCUSSION:

The City is required by California Senate Bill 1383 to procure the equivalent of 4,109 tons annually of compost processed from food and yard waste. The city delivers organic waste from our City green cart collection service to the Keith Day Company composting facility in Marina where it is then sifted and processed to produce a high-quality compost mix.

The City has received its first 10 tons of compost for our Community Compost Give Back pilot program. Commencing March 1, 2023, the compost will be made available free of charge for residents.

The compost give-back station will be at the Waste and Recycling Center located at 320 Harvest Drive. For this pilot program, distribution will be limited to residential use only, no commercial vehicles. Residents should bring their own containers and shovels as the station will be self-serve. The quantity available will be limited to a half-ton per resident to minimize wait times. Compost is available on a first-come, first-served basis until supplies run out. Outreach on this service will be present on social media, in print, and at community events and locations.

CEQA Determination. This item is not subject to review under CEQA as it does not constitute a “project” as defined by CEQA. California Public Resources Code Section 21065 defines a project as an activity that will cause a direct physical change or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. Accepting offers of dedication will do neither.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This project is consistent with Strategic Plan Priority:
3-Infrastructure & Environment

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

No financial impact or action is foreseen at this time from implementing this pilot program.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

No action – presentation only.

ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (If any):

See Watsonville Community Compost brief slide show and video presentation.