



January 19, 2021

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San Rafael City Council
14 Fifth Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901

RE: Renewal of Waste Franchise Agreement (Item 6.b)

Honorable Mayor and Council Members,

Sustainable San Rafael supports the City's intention to move forward this year with implementing mandatory organic waste diversion pursuant to Senate Bill (SB) 1383, as stated in the staff report on the annual renewal of the Marin Sanitary Service franchise agreement.

Significantly reducing methane emissions by keeping organics out of the landfill is an important step towards curbing climate change. Though waste is a relatively small portion of San Rafael's greenhouse gas footprint, it is one that we can effectively regulate at the local level, as outlined in the City's Climate Change Action Plan 2030.

With growing amounts of biomass entering the waste stream from wildfire prevention vegetation management, the need is increasing. If the carbon content of kitchen cuttings and landscape trimming can be composted to enrich Marin's soils, or processed to generate power and produce biochar, we should be able to both minimize emissions and optimize carbon sequestration. This conforms with the net zero GHG goal of the countywide Drawdown Marin program.

An important part of this effort is to require that apartment buildings provide adequate green bins for organic material, and service them at frequencies sufficient to avoid 'vector' issues. To reduce and repurpose more durable refuse, we suggest partnerships with used furniture and clothing outlets, or even flea market entrepreneurs.

Sustainable San Rafael stands ready to assist the City in its discussions with R3 Consulting Group and MSS on how best to implement SB 1383 and transform organic 'waste' into an earth-enhancing resource. We look forward to being included in this important work.

Thank you for your ongoing attention to climate change.

Sincerely,

William Carney
Board President