

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

**RE: Marin Sanitary Service 2022 Contract, Agenda Item No: 6.a**

Honorable Mayor and Council Members,

I am Belle Cole, Chair of OFA Marin, and lead of the Marin Biomass Project. I want to support the letter you received from Bill Carney, President of Sustainable San Rafael urging you to follow up on the changes to the MSS contract by codifying the requirement for organics recycling early in 2022.

We support the approach outlined in the Staff report for meeting SB 1383 requirements:

- Bringing a Municode update to Council early in 2022 which will establish mandates for organics recycling by waste generators, and will also provide for penalties and documentation, as required by the law.
- Setting forth an implementation plan, including a plan to meet annual organic waste product procurement mandates from the State.
- Implementing the spirit of the law and seeking creative ways to ensure highest and best uses of the material created locally.

From perspective of the Marin Biomass Project these are welcome commitments. The Marin Biomass Study will analyze the wide range of existing and potential pathways for processing biomass and converting it into useful products in ways that are both economically sound and ecologically responsible. It seeks to catalyze a sustainable circular bio-economy in Marin.

It will do so in a collaborative manner that helps build cooperation among the public and private stakeholders that operate and oversee the biomass utilization economy, so that optimal solutions can be quickly implemented. MSS is a valued partner in this regard.

Among the benefits for Marin, and especially for resource managers like MSS, are marketable options like **compost, mulches, and biochar** for use on local gardens and agricultural landscapes; **pyrolysis/gasification** for electricity, biochar, and/or

hydrogen; increased **anaerobic digestion** of organics for electricity and agricultural soil amendments; and diversified **wood products**, among others.

Working with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, the City, and MSS, we hope to provide useful solutions for handling organic materials.

Thank you for responding to these challenges. Count us in to assist your efforts.

Belle Cole, San Rafael

