

Request for Approval

To: ~~Zoe Heller~~ Karen Kayfetz
Acting Deputy Director, Division of Circular Economy

From: **Michelle Martin**
Branch Chief, Financial Resources Management Branch

Request Date: **March 6, 2024**

Decision Subject: Awards for the Community Composting for Green Spaces Grant Program, Cycle 3 (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, Fiscal Year 2021–22)

Action By: ~~March 12, 2024~~ May 28, 2024

Summary of Request

Staff requests approval of 8 grant awards in the amount of \$510,000 for the competitive Community Composting for Green Spaces Grant Program (Program) for fiscal year (FY) 2021–22. Cycle 3 of the Program provides funds solely to Qualifying Tribal Entities for community composting on lands under the ownership, management, or stewardship of members of a tribal community. Cycle 3 is oversubscribed by \$289,815 as \$799,815 in eligible funding was requested from 11 eligible applications. The remaining passing applications, reflected in funding order in Table 3, could be funded if additional funds are allocated to this program in the future.

Funding

The FY 2021–22 Budget, as amended by SB 170 (Chapter 240, Statutes of 2021), allocates \$70,000,000 to CalRecycle from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (appropriation 3970-101-3228) with five percent (\$3,500,000) available for administrative costs, as authorized in the Budget and shall be used to provide grants for the purposes of paragraphs (1), (2), or (5) of subdivision (b) of Section 42999 of the Public Resources Code. In May 2023 CalRecycle awarded \$4,240,000 for community composting projects to create, improve, or expand community composting within geographic regions in California in Cycle 2. In December 2023 CalRecycle awarded \$61,750,000 as part of the Organics Grant Program, to support expansion of the waste management infrastructure, particularly for new or expanded organics infrastructure such as composting and digestion facilities. The remaining \$510,000 is now recommended for award as part of Cycle 3 of the Program.

Table 1. Funding

Fund Source	Amount Available	Amount to Fund Item	Amount Remaining	Line Item
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Account (FY 2021–22)	\$510,000	\$510,000	\$0	Local Assistance /Grants

Background and Findings

Statutory Authority

Public Resources Code section 42995 et seq., added to statute by the enactment of SB 862 (Statutes of 2014, Chapter 36) and amended by SB 155 (Statutes of 2021, Chapter 258), authorizes CalRecycle to administer a grant program to provide financial assistance to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) by promoting in-state development of infrastructure, food waste prevention, or other projects to reduce organic waste or process organic and other recyclable materials into new, value-added products.

Program Background

This Program is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing GHG emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment. At least 35 percent of California Climate Investments must benefit disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households, collectively known as priority populations.

The Program increases the number of community groups operating small-scale composting programs supporting green spaces within Priority Population communities. This effort will also increase local composting capacity while expanding community knowledge about the benefits of compost use and proper composting techniques. Green spaces include community gardens, urban farms, and other public spaces where small-scale composting is appropriate. This program will assist community groups in overcoming barriers to starting and managing community-based composting programs by providing targeted resources. These resources will increase the ability of community groups to divert materials from landfill, increase their knowledge and experience with composting, and help foster climate resilience. Other goals of the program include identifying success factors for community-scale composting and providing models for effective and sustainable community composting operations.

Criteria and Process

The Eligibility Criteria and Evaluation Process was discussed at the September 19, 2023, CalRecycle Public Meeting and subsequently approved by the Deputy Director. The Notice of Funds Available was placed on the CalRecycle web site on October 27, 2023, with an appropriate notice sent to interested parties.

Applications were due January 23, 2024. CalRecycle received 12 applications requesting \$825,615. Staff reviewed the applications to ensure all applicants and proposed project activities were eligible for award. Subsequently, one application was disqualified due to being submitted by an ineligible applicant which was not a Qualifying Tribal Entity. Since the Program is oversubscribed by \$289,815, as \$799,815 in eligible funding was requested from 11 eligible applications, CalRecycle held a Random Selection Process on February 27, 2024. Applications are recommended for funding in random selection number order. The minimum grant award is \$25,000, and the maximum grant award is \$100,000 for a single applicant. Staff proposes to fund 8 of the 11 applicants. If additional monies become available, staff recommend funding the remaining applicants.

Listed below are the projects recommended for funding.

Applicant: Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians

- County: El Dorado
- Grant Funds Recommended for Award: \$46,450

The Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians proposes improvement and enhancement of their community composting program by implementing vermicomposting to produce a high-quality soil amendment for the Tribe's community garden using food waste from several departmental waste streams and green waste from the landscaping crew. The finished compost will be used in the community garden to grow vegetables and traditional plants for members of the tribal community. This project will fund a vermicomposting system and equipment, educational signage, training, a compost tea maker, and a trailer for moving feedstock and compost.

Applicant: Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake

- County: Lake
- Grant Funds Recommended for Award: \$29,410

The Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake propose improvement and expansion of their community composting program through increasing feedstock collection and composting activities. The project will divert waste from tribal offices, businesses, and households to create a high-quality soil amendment for tribal members and the Upper Lake High School Agricultural Department. This project will fund feedstock collection containers, tree planting and maintenance, composting and vermicomposting equipment, and four part-time positions.

Applicant: Trinidad Rancheria

- County: Humboldt
- Grant Funds Recommended for Award: \$40,000

Trinidad Rancheria proposes activities to enhance and supplement their planned composting program, which will provide a high-quality soil amendment for community gardens and community members, created with waste diverted from tribal departments, the community, and Trinidad Pier. This project will fund materials for compost monitoring, tree planting and maintenance, composting education signage, reusable food service ware for zero-waste events to reduce contamination of composting processes, and supplement three part-time positions.

Applicant: Bishop Paiute Tribe

- County: Inyo
- Grant Funds Recommended for Award: \$100,000

The Bishop Paiute Tribe proposes implementation of community-scale composting at the Tribe's Cultural Center Garden and Elders Center Garden, which will produce a high-quality soil amendment for the Tribe's Food Sovereignty Program. The project will divert food scraps from several departmental waste streams including the Wanaaha Casino. This project will fund composting equipment, educational materials, tree planting and maintenance, cargo bikes for feedstock and compost transport, and one part-time position.

Applicant: Sherwood Valley Rancheria

- County: Mendocino

- Grant Funds Recommended for Award: \$100,000

Sherwood Valley Rancheria proposes implementation of vermicomposting at Westside Community Garden, which will produce a high-quality soil amendment for their on-site community garden and native plant nursery. This project will divert spoiled food from the Tribe's food distribution program, the Tribe's Elder Lunch Program, and vegetation from the Tribe's Maintenance Department. This project will fund composting equipment, a rainwater catchment system to make water available for composting, electric cargo bikes and other costs for transporting feedstock and compost, tree planting and maintenance, office and safety items, and one part-time position.

Applicant: Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians

- County: San Diego
- Grant Funds Recommended for Award: \$38,556

The Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians proposes enhancement and expansion of their community composting operations by constructing an aerated static pile (ASP) composting system to replace the current manually turned compost system. The current composting operations divert food waste from the Tribe's casino and resort and vegetation waste from landscaping projects. The project will make a high-quality soil amendment available for community gardens, Tribal members, and for landscaping projects around the Viejas reservation. This project will fund a contractor to build an ASP system.

Applicant: Wukchumni Tribe

- County: Tulare
- Grant Funds Recommended for Award: \$100,000

The Wukchumni Tribe proposes implementation of the K'aatru Composting Project at the Wukchumni Farms, which will produce a high-quality soil amendment for onsite use, as well as for Tribal members' home gardens. The project will divert green waste from community gardens and food scraps via community drop off sites. This project will fund composting and vermicomposting building materials, tools and equipment, educational materials, costs for transportation of feedstock and compost, and two part-time positions.

Applicant: Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe

- County: Humboldt
- Grant Funds Recommended for Award: \$55,584

The Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe proposes enhancement and expansion of the community composting program at Daluviwi' Community Garden. The current program utilizes food scraps and green waste diverted from several tribal departments and the Tribe's casino to grow fresh, local produce that feeds 100 households monthly. This project will fund one full-time position and one part-time position, purchase of supplementary feedstock material to promote compost health, collection containers, and fuel for the Tribe's tractor used in making compost.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of eight (8) grant awards as listed below for \$510,000.

Table 2. Recommended Awards

Applicant	Award Amount
Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians	\$46,450
Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake	\$29,410
Trinidad Rancheria	\$40,000
Bishop Paiute Tribe	\$100,000
Sherwood Valley Rancheria	\$100,000
Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians	\$38,556
Wukchumni Tribe	\$100,000
Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe	\$55,584 ¹
Total Award	\$510,000

Table 3. Recommended Awards if Additional Funds Become Available - B-List

Applicant	Award Amount
Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe	\$44,165
Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation	\$99,846
Santa Rosa Indian Community of the Santa Rosa Rancheria	\$48,406
Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians Tribe	\$97,398
Total Award	\$289,815

Deputy Director Action

On the basis of the information and analysis in this Request for Approval and the findings set out herein, I hereby conditionally approve the grant awards for the Community Composting for Green Spaces Grant Program as listed in Table 2. Each proposed grantee's award is subject to two conditions:

1. The recommended grantee must pay all outstanding debts due to CalRecycle, or bring current any outstanding payments owed to CalRecycle, within 60 days of the date of the award email.
2. The recommended grantee's Signature Authority (or where delegation is authorized, his or her Designee) must sign and return the Grant Agreement to CalRecycle. The signed Grant Agreement must be received by CalRecycle within ~~60~~ 75 days of the date of the award email.

¹ Recommending partial award due to limited funds. Remaining amount included in Table 3.

Signed By: Karen Kayfetz, Acting Deputy Director

Karen Kayfetz
Acting Deputy Director

May 30, 2024

Dated