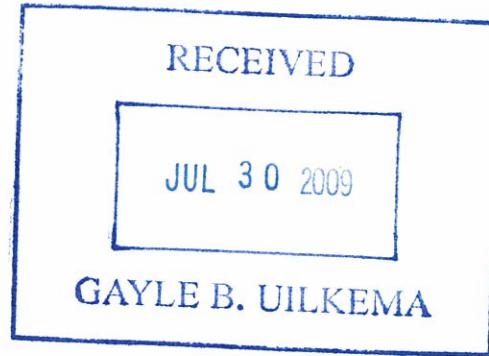


Lauren David  
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925-209-0909

July 13, 2009

Gayle B. Uilkema  
Lamorinda Office  
Fire District Headquarters  
3338 Mt. Diablo Boulevard  
Lafayette, CA 94549



Dear Gayle Uilkema,

My name is Lauren David and I live in Walnut Creek. I'm very excited about the current food scrap recycling programs in the Bay Area- San Francisco, Alameda County and Lamorinda (Lafayette, Orinda and Moraga). I'm taking personal steps to reduce my ecological impact on the environment by composting to divert waste from landfills and minimize methane gas being released into the air. I would love to see a program similar to Lamorinda's food scrap recycling program expand to all of Contra Costa County.

I've addressed the central county waste authority board and followed up with a letter indicating what I perceive as strong community interest to implement and expand a food waste program. However, the Authority staff tells me- there is not a local permitted facility to accept food waste at this time. Facilities composting yard scraps must have a separate permit to accept and compost food waste. The nearest permitted facility is Newbie Island in Milpitas but they are currently at maximum capacity and unable to accept additional food waste.

Composting is a combination of dirt, food scraps, and leaves that are broken down naturally with the help of bugs and worms. Compost enriches the soil naturally without harm to the environment and minimizes reliance on fertilizers and pesticides. I would love to see a composting facility permitted or a new one developed in Contra Costa County for food waste. This will minimize fossil fuel consumption to transfer food waste to permitted facilities, divert food waste from entering the landfill and releasing methane into the air and allow for an expanded food scrap recycling program.

I appreciate your support in creating and/or permitting a local food scrap composting facility.

Thank you,

  
Lauren David