



**DATE:** March 9, 2023

**TO:** Planning Committee/Recycling Board

**FROM:** Jeannie Pham, Senior Program Services Specialist  
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**SUBJECT:** Compost Hubs and StopWaste Environmental Educator Training (SWEET)

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### **SUMMARY**

StopWaste currently partners with urban farms and Member Agency staff to co-develop Compost Hubs across the county. Additionally, StopWaste retooled the SWEET program to activate urban farmers in making and using compost and teaching the public. At the March 9<sup>th</sup> committee meeting, staff will share an overview of the Compost Hub and SWEET projects and highlight the role partnerships play in community engagement on compost.

### **DISCUSSION**

Compost Hubs are sites offering free compost to residents year-round, made possible by partnerships between urban farms and Member Agencies. Compost Hubs support Member Agency compliance with SB 1383 procurement targets while building capacity in community-based organizations who grow and donate fresh produce to food recovery organizations. Adjacent to Compost Hubs, SWEET is a peer-to-peer learning program that supports urban farmers in becoming expert composters and educators by teaching the science and practices of composting, sharing methods for teaching the public, and building a network of urban farms. All Compost Hub partners, plus additional farmers, participated in SWEET's 2022 cohort. These two projects work in tandem to elevate collaborative partnerships, connect Member Agencies and communities, and support composting in community food systems.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

This item is for information only.