



# Potential Regional Organics Processing Facility Site Location Recommendation

Board of Public Utilities  
Emma Walton, Deputy Director of Engineering  
March 5, 2020

# History of In-County Organics Processing

• 1992

Zero Waste Sonoma (ZWS) Formed



- Formerly the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency
- Joint Powers Authority for the Unincorporated Area and Nine Cities and Towns in Sonoma County
- Mission of Waste Diversion

• 1993

In-County Municipal Composting Facility Began Operations



# History of In-County Organics Processing

- Dec 2011 ZWS Released a Draft EIR for a New Compost Facility
- Apr 2013 ZWS Released the Final EIR for a New Compost Facility
- Oct 2015 The In-County, Municipal Composting Facility Closed due to Stormwater Runoff Issues



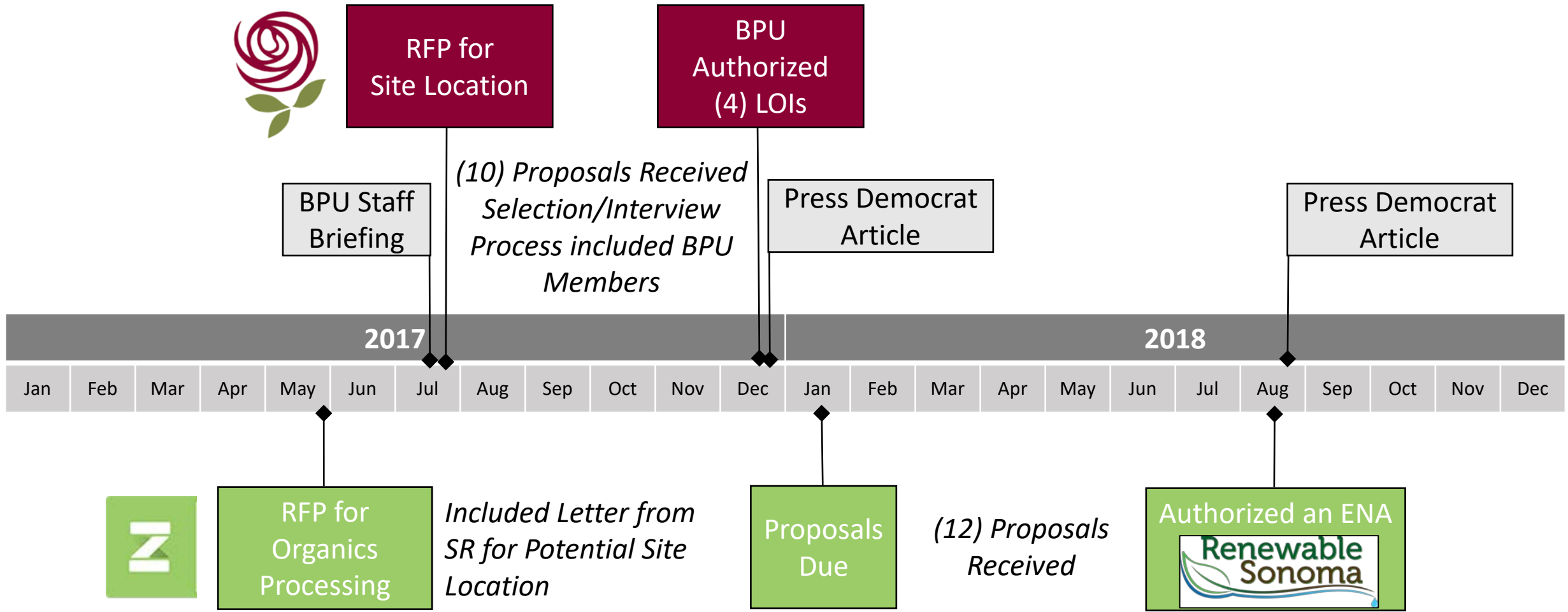


# Why a Regional Organics Processing Facility?

- Since 2015, Organic Material has been Hauled Out-of-County
- ZWS and Member Agencies have an Interest in Supporting the Development an In-County Processing Facility
  - Help reduce greenhouse gas emissions
  - Aid in meeting the State's objective of diverting 75% of the organics from the landfill by 2025
  - Provide needed services in Sonoma County for residents and businesses to drop-off yard trimmings, food discards and wood scraps
  - Provide our Community with locally produced, high-quality, organic soil amendments



# Selecting a Facility Developer/Operator



# Renewable Sonoma's Proposal

Enclosed  
Receiving Facility



Covered Reversing Aerated  
Static Pile Composting



Anaerobic  
Digestion





# Key Features of the Proposed Facility

- Negative Pressure Receiving Facility
- Covered, Reversing Aerated Static Pile Composting
- Biofilters for Emissions Treatment
- Anaerobic Digestion to Produce Biogas
- Zero Discharge for Stormwater
- PV System to Offset Energy Needs
- Electric Equipment





Preferred Location



City's Biosolids Compost Facility

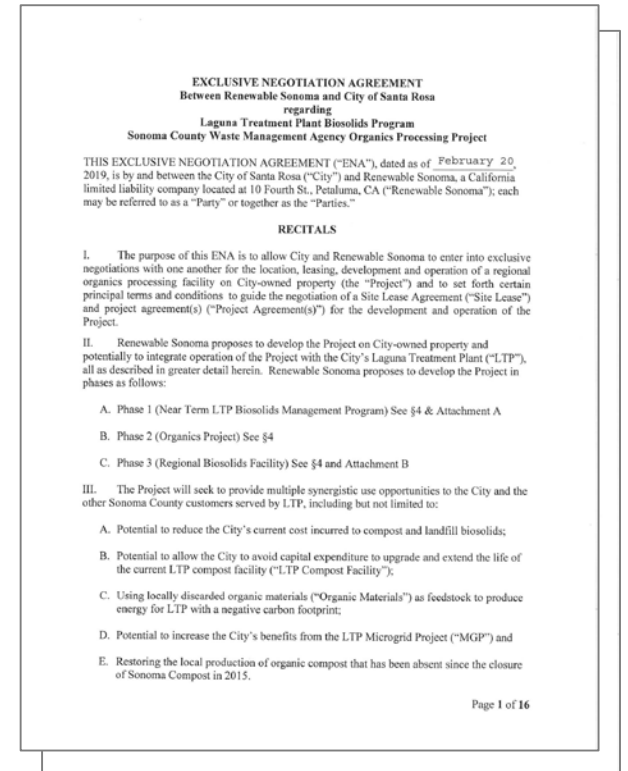


Alternative Location

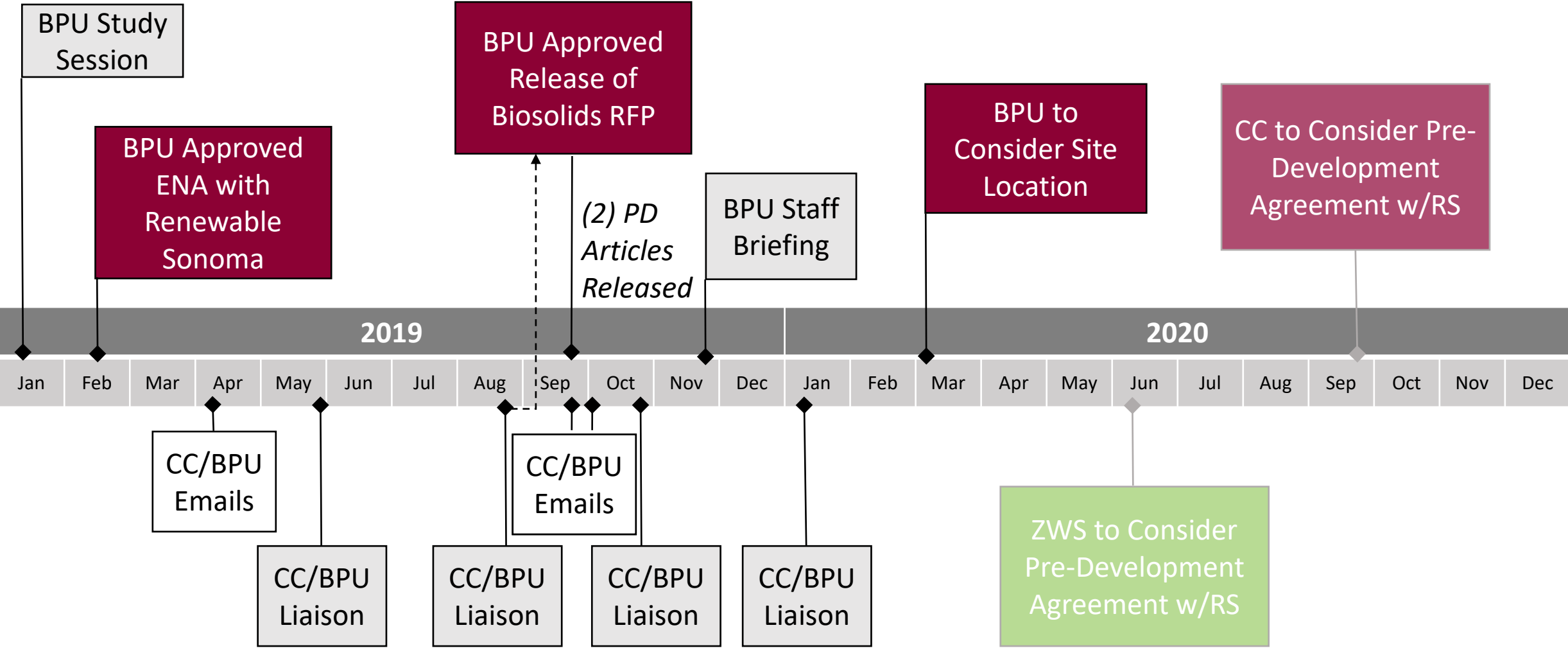


# Location Selection Process

- Phase 1      Near-term Biosolids Management Plan
  - Explore Alternatives to Biosolids Compost Facility
- Phase 2      Organic Material Processing Project
  - Greenfield Development or Re-purpose Biosolids Compost Facility Acreage to Organic Material Processing Facility



# Location Selection Process - Timeline





# Preferred Location Aerial View





# Benefits of the Preferred Location

- Existing/Permitted Composting Site
- Existing Water and Stormwater Infrastructure
- Less Environmental Impact
- Farther from the Neighbors





# Community Concerns

Topic	Approach	CEQA Requirement*
2013 EIR and Findings	New Project will Require New CEQA	X
Flooding	Sporadic Flooding may Temporarily Impact Access	X
Stormwater Runoff	Zero Discharge Facility	X
GW Contamination	Operations on Impervious Surfaces	X
Airborne Emissions/Odors	Neg. Pressure Bldg, Filters, Composting Technology	X
Traffic	Opportunities to Minimize Truck Traffic	X
Noise	Constrained Hours of Operation	X
GHGs	Net Carbon Reduction	X
Lighting	Opportunities to Minimize Impacts	X
Public Engagement	Ongoing and Often Communication	X

\*Developer funded requirement

# Communicating with Our Community

- Informational Brochure Available
- Informational Websites

Zero Waste Sonoma [zerowastesonoma.gov/organicsfacility](http://zerowastesonoma.gov/organicsfacility)

City of Santa Rosa [srcity.org/organicsfacility](http://srcity.org/organicsfacility)

Renewable Sonoma [renewablesonoma.com](http://renewablesonoma.com)

- Letters to our Neighbors
- More Information to Come
  - Sign-up for Email Updates
  - Participate in Public Meetings

## Proposed Organics Processing Facility

*For a Sustainable Sonoma County*



## Proposed Organics Facility



# UPDATES

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# Next Steps

## Near-Term

- Summer 2020  
Council to Consider Pre-Development  
Agreement with Renewable Sonoma

## Long-Term

- Conceptual Site Plan/Project Description Development
- CEQA/Permitting
- Design/Construction/Commissioning



# Future Decision Points

## CC/BPU Liaison Subcommittee

- Recommendation on Lease Terms and Project

## Board of Public Utilities

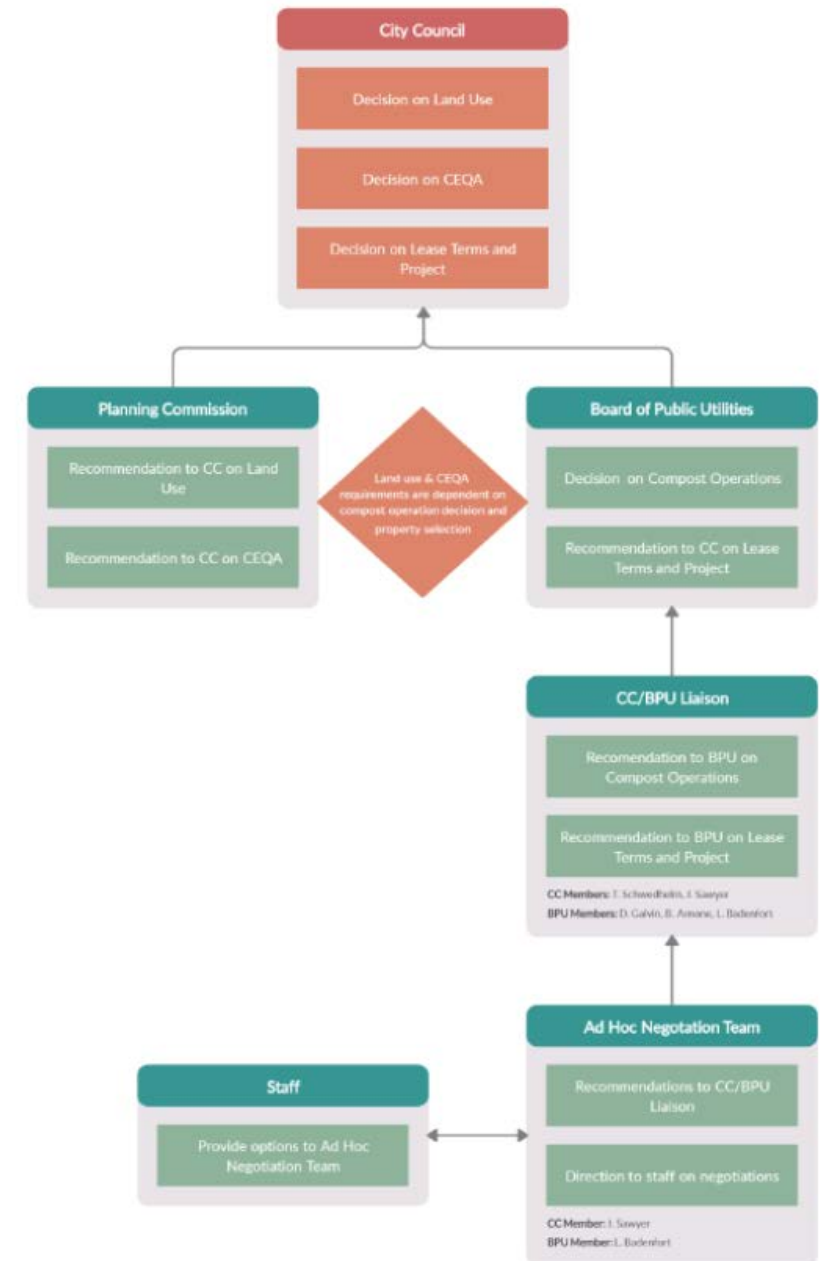
- Recommendation on Lease Terms and Project

## Planning Commission

- Recommendation on Land Use and CEQA Document

## City Council

- Decision on Land Use, Project, CEQA Document and Lease Terms



# Recommendation

The Water Department recommends that the Board of Public Utilities approve negotiations with Renewable Sonoma on the lease of land near the Laguna Treatment Plant, a portion of which is currently occupied by the City's Biosolids Composting Facility, for the purpose of potentially locating a Regional Organics Processing Facility.

Questions?