



## City of Biggs

### Agenda Item Staff Report for the Regular City Council Meeting: October 13, 2015

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
FROM: Mark Sorensen, City Administrator  
Subject: Authorization to support grant application of North State Rendering.

#### Background:

North State Rendering and the County of Butte are seeking letters of support for a grant application for North State Rendering to expand and improve its ability to receive organic materials at its anaerobic digester near the intersection of Highway 99 and Shippee Road.

The attached AB1826 informational page explains the associated issues. And the attached draft letter of support provides an example of a letter of support.

In brief, state laws are increasing pressure on jurisdictions to divert organic waste from landfill facilities to digesters or composting facilities. Thus far Butte County has identified the North State Rendering (NSR) facility as the only currently permitted facility that can accept food waste for processing, and would like to support their ability to improve and expand their ability to receive organic materials.

#### **Recommendation:**

Authorize the Mayor and City Administrator to support the North State Rendering application for a greenhouse gas reduction grant.

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Mark Sorensen, City Administrator



# Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling

## AB 1826

New State laws mandate that after January 1, 2016, local jurisdictions across the state implement an organic waste recycling program to divert organic waste generated by businesses. The law phases in the requirements on businesses, including multifamily residential dwellings that consist of five or more units, over time based on the amount and type of organic waste the business produces on a weekly basis. Full implementation will be realized in 2019. The implementation schedule is as follows:

- **January 1, 2016:** Local jurisdictions shall have an **ORGANIC WASTE RECYCLING PLAN** in place. Jurisdictions shall conduct outreach, education to inform businesses how to recycle organic waste in the jurisdiction, and monitoring to identify those not recycling and inform them of the law and how to recycle organic waste.
- **April 1, 2016:** Businesses that generate eight cubic yards of organic waste per week shall arrange for organic waste recycling services. Jurisdiction needs to have ordinance or franchise agreement to require haulers to provide organic waste recycling service to commercial customers meeting threshold.
- **January 1, 2017:** Businesses that generate four cubic yards of organic waste per week shall arrange for organic waste recycling services.
- **August 1, 2017 and ongoing:** Jurisdictions shall provide information about their organic waste recycling program implementation in the annual report submitted to CalRecycle.
- **January 1, 2019:** Businesses that generate four cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste per week shall arrange for organic waste recycling services.

## What action has the County taken ?

The County has met with stakeholders (private and local government) to update them on the requirements. Many city staff members asked the County to take the lead in developing a facility capable of receiving and processing food and other organic waste.

County is working with franchised haulers to identify customers meeting the first tier threshold. Once these customers are identified, we will have much more information available to develop our plan. Each jurisdiction should be doing something similar.

County is working with local facility operators and haulers to facilitate development of facilities needed to be able to process food waste and co-collected food/green waste. There is only one permitted facility in Butte County that can accept food waste for processing: North State Rendering (NSR). The County is assisting with NSR with a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grant application that will allow NSR to expand its food waste receiving capabilities. If successful in receiving the grant, NSR should be able to receive all food waste for the Tier 1 threshold commercial customers next year.

County is also working with franchised haulers to develop and/or expand composting facilities in the county that will allow these facilities to receive co-collected food/green waste. Co-collection is much more cost efficient and will be the preferred choice of the haulers.

September \_\_, 2015

DRAFT

Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery  
CalRecycle  
1001 I Street  
PO Box 4025  
Sacramento, CA 95814-4025

**RE: Letter of Support – North State Rendering Application for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grant**

**The Butte Regional Waste Management Authority ([BRWMA]- County of Butte, City of Gridley, City of Biggs) is writing in support of North State Rendering’s application for a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grant for the current grant cycle.** North State Rendering (NSR) currently operates a permitted anaerobic digestion unit serving most of the communities in Northern California. **It is the only permitted facility to receive and process food waste in Butte County and neighboring counties.** NSR currently receives limited amounts of food waste as feedstock for its anaerobic digestion unit. With this grant, NSR can leverage existing infrastructure to expand its food waste receiving and processing capabilities, which, will allow the BRWMA and cities within Butte County an opportunity to comply with AB 1826’s (Mandatory Commercial Organic Recycling) requirement that local jurisdictions ensure that food waste recycling services are provided to commercial generators. **The BRWMA believes that having a facility capable of receiving and processing food waste located in Butte County is the key for ensuring that organic waste recycling programs, including food waste, are provided in a cost effective manner to commercial generators.**

Within Butte County there are three permitted compost facilities with enough permitted capacity to meet the needs of commercial and residential green waste and wood waste recycling programs. However, these facilities cannot accept food waste, nor co-collected green waste with food waste. Since co-collection is most cost-efficient, a facility able to accept food waste and co-collected food/green waste is needed in Butte County to meet the requirements of AB 1826.

In 2014, the commercial waste stream accounted for approximately 41,283 tons of landfilled waste generated in Butte County. CalRecycle’s Waste Characterization Study (2008) determined that approximately 19% of the commercial waste stream is composed of food waste (15.4%), pruning and trimmings (3.3%). Using this data, it is projected that up to 7,843 additional tons of waste per year can be diverted from the landfill and used as beneficial feedstock for NSR’s anaerobic digester to create electricity and transportation fuel. Additional commercial organic material in the form of green and wood waste tonnage will be processed at existing local compost facilities.

The agency members of the BRWMA have franchise agreements with haulers within their respective jurisdictions and through these agreements can ensure that organic waste recycling services are provided to commercial generators. What is lacking is a local food waste processing facility that can accept all the food waste generated locally. If NSR receives a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grant to expand its food waste receiving capability, the BRWMA and other cities within Butte County, and most likely adjacent counties, will have a **local solution** in order to comply with AB 1826 while keeping collection rates to commercial generators as reasonable as possible.

Thank you for considering North State Rendering’s application for a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grant and how this local facility will provide Butte County and cities the needed resources to complete its/their Mandatory Commercial Organic Recycling Plans. If you have any questions, please contact Bill Mannel, Deputy Director, Waste Management Division, Butte County Public Works at 530.879.2350.

Sincerely,  
Butte Regional Waste Management Authority