



City of Grass Valley City Council Agenda Action Sheet

Title: Local Buyback and Compost Facility Feasibility Study - R3 Proposal

CEQA: Not a project

Recommendation: That the City Council 1) Review the proposal for a joint feasibility study with the City of Nevada City to evaluate the development of a shared facility for CRV (California Redemption Value) local buyback, clear plastic recycling, and composting; 2) Provide direction to staff regarding the City's participation in the proposed project; and 3) Authorize the City Manager to enter into any necessary agreements, subject to legal review, and approve the use of General Fund contingencies and Measure B funds to cover the City's share of the feasibility study cost in coordination with Nevada City.

Prepared by: Tim Kiser, City Manager

Council Meeting Date: 07/22/2025

Date Prepared: 07/15/2025

Agenda: Administrative

Background Information:

The Cities of Grass Valley and Nevada City are jointly exploring the feasibility of developing a shared facility to support local CRV (California Redemption Value) buyback, composting, and clear plastic recycling operations. Currently, these services are centralized at the County-owned McCourtney Road Transfer Station (MRTS), operated by Waste Management (WM). Green waste and other organics from MRTS are hauled to composting facilities more than 36 miles away, and the existing CRV buyback center—also located on County property—is inconvenient for many local residents.

In response to growing interest in sustainable and community-based waste management solutions, both cities are considering localized alternatives that would:

- Reduce transportation costs and emissions by processing organic waste closer to the source and making finished compost available for community use;
- Expand public access to CRV buyback services, addressing service gaps caused by the closure of multiple centers in recent years;
- Support local, volunteer-led recycling efforts for items such as film plastic and food waste;

- Assess the potential for capturing and processing cannabis-related waste as a supplemental revenue stream.

To evaluate these opportunities, the Cities propose a high-level feasibility study that will examine applicable regulations, market demand, operational requirements, potential sites, and preliminary financial projections. The study will help determine whether the development of a shared facility is practical and beneficial.

The objective is to provide both Cities with clear direction on the viability of establishing a local facility for compost processing and CRV/recyclables drop-off. While not intended to produce final designs or cost estimates, the study will offer guidance on next steps and key considerations for moving forward with a project of this nature.

A copy of the proposal for the Feasibility Study is attached for City Council's review and information.

Council Goals/Objectives: The execution of this action attempts to achieve the following Strategic Goals - Community and Sense of Place.

Fiscal Impact: The total cost of the Feasibility Study is estimated at \$25,000, to be shared equally between the City of Grass Valley and the City of Nevada City. Sufficient funds are available in the General Fund Contingency and Measure B allocations to cover Grass Valley's share of the cost.

Funds Available: Yes

Account #: TBD

Reviewed by: City Manager

Attachments: Proposal