Boulder County
Proposed Compost Facility

March 2021
Agenda

1. Overview & History
2. Design & Application
3. Public Outreach
4. New Information
5. Staff Recommendation
Overview & History

- History of strong support for zero waste solutions in Boulder County
- Climate change a strategic priority
- Benefits of compost
- Sustainability tax
Overview & History

- A cross departmental effort mapped potential C&D recycling and composting sites within county limits.
- Minimal sites met all the criteria and after much deliberation three potential sites were revealed as potentially viable.
- Consultants hired to analyze sites for specific zero waste uses.
- Site concerns found at two of the three locations, so the Former Rainbow Tree Nursery location becomes a viable option.
- Staff presented site analysis to the prior BOCC.
- In November 2019, BOCC directed staff to put out RFP for design to get real cost estimates of building a compost facility.
Design Review & Application Processes

- Public Works issues RFP for Architectural Consultants March 2020
- Architectural consultant team selected July 2020: PEH Architects, SCS Engineering, and A1 Organics
- Special Use Review Application (Architectural Schematic Design Drawings and Application) submitted to CP&P October 2020
- Quasi-judicial process part of SUR because Boulder County is the applicant
- Limits ability of staff to communicate with decision-makers (BOCC) until public hearings
- Updated construction estimate significantly higher than pre-design estimate
- Value engineering takes place to get design to $12M
Public Outreach During Design Process

- Compost Facility website developed August of 2020
  - 4,455 visits to-date
- FAQ webpage established September of 2020
- Email listserv established August of 2020
  - 1,167 subscribers
- Online question/comment form
  - 443 forms submitted to-date
- Neighboring property owner informational session held on-site Oct. 6, 2020
- Media coverage by Daily Camera, Times Call, Colorado Public Radio, Channel 7 Denver, CBS 4 Denver, Longmont Leader, Yellowscene, & Lefthand Valley Courier
- Public hearings planned with Planning Commission and BOCC if Special Use Review moved forward
Request for Application Withdrawal

What Has Changed:

- Updated project cost estimates show substantial increase from 2019 preliminary estimates
- Value engineering to reduce costs may affect overall facility design & intended operations
- Over 500 comments received by PW from the public both in support and in opposition
  - Numerous comments also received by Commissioners Office, CP&P, and POS
- Withdrawal allows for additional analysis of options and renewed conversation between staff, the public, and decision makers regarding the project & potential composting solutions
Questions & Comments