

# Compost for Erosion Control at Buena Vista Landfill

Progress report by Karin Grobe, kgrobe@pacbell.net, 831-427-3452, Updated March 6, 2007

Compost was applied to a slope (approximately 2.5:1) just inside and opposite the landfill entrance on September 24, 2006. Most of the slope was covered with two-inches of compost; a small area near the toe, enclosed by flags, received one-inch of compost. The compost is made from food scraps and yard waste at a compost site at the landfill. It is screened to 3/8-inch. More information on compost processing is available at [http://www.compostsantacruzcounty.org/Business\\_Composting/commercial\\_compost.html](http://www.compostsantacruzcounty.org/Business_Composting/commercial_compost.html).

The compost application area is being compared with the area adjacent on the north side, which was conventionally hydroseeded and fertilized and planted with the same erosion control/wildflower mix, at the same rate, two weeks before. Both areas have sandy soil. The compost area received about half as much water as the area that was hydromulched.



September 24: Compost applied by blower over coconut erosion blanket. Seed was injected into the compost by blower truck.



November 13: In area of compost application on the right, seedlings are just beginning to emerge; hydroseeded area, on the left, where seed was applied two weeks earlier, up and growing.



November 27: Both areas growing well. Compost area is on the right.



December 18: Both areas well covered with grasses.



February 12: Area of compost (on the right) very green. Area of hydroseeding (on the left) beginning to yellow.



February 12: Close up of yellowing in hydroseeded area.