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Quality Products for Healthy Soil

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Inland Empire Regional Composting Authority Recognized as Large-Scale Compost Manufacturer of the Year

INLAND EMPIRE, CA – The Inland Empire Regional Composting Authority (IERCA) was recently recognized as the Large-Scale Compost Manufacturer of the Year at the United States Composting Council’s (USCC) Annual Conference and Tradeshow.

“We are honored to receive this recognition, especially after achieving our recent milestone of selling three million cubic yards of high-quality compost,” stated IERCA Board Chairperson Jon Blickenstaff. “As the largest indoor composting facility in the nation, the Agency and its incredible staff have managed to maintain an excellent environmental compliance and safety record while producing a consistent, top-quality product that creates healthy soils, boosts soil productivity, saves water, and improves air quality.”

The Large-Scale Compost Manufacturer of the Year award was presented to the Inland Empire Utilities Agency’s Manager of Regional Compost Operations and IERCA Project Manager, Jeff Ziegenbein, at this year’s annual USCC Conference and Tradeshow in Austin, Texas. This award is presented to a commercial-scale U.S. composting facility that produces more than 10,000 tons of compost per year. The award recognizes a public or private facility that has been in operation for a minimum of three years and displays excellence in compost production, marketing and distribution.

IERCA manufactures premium compost made up of green waste and biosolids that undergo a 60-day composting process at its facility in Rancho Cucamonga. The high-quality, nutrient-rich product sold under the SoilPro® name meets top-quality guidelines outlined by the United States Composting Council’s Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) Program.

“Utilizing safe, innovative, collaborative, and cost-effective practices, our facility produces over 230,000 cubic yards of high-quality compost each year,” stated Paul Hofer, IEUA Board Member and IERCA Board Vice Chairperson. “This award is a reflection of our incredible team and their continual dedication to protecting the environment as we continue to lead the way, transforming carbon-filled materials into sustainable compost under the SoilPro® name.”

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Established in 1990, the US Composting Council (USCC) is the only national organization in the United States dedicated to the development, expansion and promotion of the compost manufacturing industry. The USCC achieves this mission by encouraging, supporting and performing compost related research, promoting best management practices, establishing standards, educating professionals and the public about the benefits of compost and compost utilization, enhancing compost product quality, and developing training materials for composters and markets for compost products. USCC members include compost manufacturers, marketers, equipment manufacturers, product suppliers, academic institutions, public agencies, nonprofit groups and consulting/engineering firms.

The Inland Empire Regional Composting Authority (IERCA) was created as a public entity on February 27, 2002, by a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) and the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD). This agreement empowered IEUA and LACSD to acquire, construct, operate and maintain a composting facility. IEUA and LACSD have jointly evaluated composting as an economically and environmentally sound method of beneficially reusing biosolids that are generated from the wastewater treatment facilities operated by each agency.