
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

5 May 2015

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RESPONSE TO COMMENTS, TENTATIVE WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS, NORTHERN RECYCLING COMPOST –ZAMORA FACILITY, YOLO COUNTY

Central Valley Water Board permitting staff reviewed the 1 May 2015 email comments submitted on your behalf by Edgar and Associates (copy attached) on the tentative Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the Northern Recycling Compost –Zamora Facility in Yolo County. The tentative WDRs are scheduled for consideration at the Central Valley Water Board's 4/5 June 2015 board meeting in Rancho Cordova.

This letter provides Water Board staff's response to your comments. Your submitted comment and staff's response to each comment is provided below.

1. Permeability of Compost Pads

Comment: When the ROWD was initially prepared for the facility, the Draft General WDRs for Compost Facilities had a requirement for working pad permeability of 10-6 cm/s. This value was presented in the ROWD to match up with the Draft WDRs under the assumption that a proposal less stringent than what was tentatively being required in the Draft General WDRs would not be acceptable. Since then the Draft General WDRs have evolved, and the version that appears to be poised for adoption requires only 10-5 cm/s. Therefore, it is requested that the requirement for Northern Recycling be revised to a working pad permeability of 10-5 cm/s.

Staff Response: Although the Draft General Order WDRs for Composting Operations (Draft Composting General Order) has not been adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board, the accepted pad permeability presented in the Draft Composting General Order is 10⁻⁵ centimeters per second (cm/s). Your request for this revision is acceptable.

2. Food Waste Pilot Project

Comment: Additionally, the Tentative Northern Recycling WDRs have a sunset date for food waste acceptance for the pilot project of 1 December 2015. Northern Recycling would like to continue this pilot project until 2020 (if allowed by the Yolo Solano Air Quality Management District) to optimize the treatment of food waste/green waste blends using positive aeration with a carbonaceous layer. The focus of the pilot project has recently changed from negative to positive aeration, along with an extension of the project.

Staff Response: Staff reviewed the pilot scale covered aerated static pile (ASP) project with the Discharger and identified that the pilot project has been extended by the Yolo Solano Air Quality Management District for another year. In addition, the Discharger proposes to continue composting green waste and food waste using the ASP processes following the pilot scale time period as long as permitting can be obtained from the Yolo Solano Air Quality Management District. Composting requirements remain the same for green waste and food waste in regards to pad surfaces and wastewater handling systems, therefore, staff deleted the requirement to discontinue the pilot project in December 2015, and required the Discharger to provide a summary of the pilot project findings in their annual monitoring report.

Please contact me at (916) 464-4630 or Marty.Hartzell@waterboards.ca.gov with any questions.



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Attachment

cc: Rick Moore, Edgar and Associates, Sacramento