

PUBLIC WORKSHOP

February 13, 2015

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Draft Environmental Impact Report
and
General Order for Composting
Operations

Introductions

Workshop Meeting Goals/Agenda

- Objective – Listening Session
- Brief Overview of Proposed General Order (handout)
- Brief Overview of EIR
- Timeline – Next Steps
- Contact Information to submit comments

Why a General Order?

- Protect water quality by adopting requirements that are consistent with the Water Code
- Create statewide regulatory consistency with regards to design, construction, operation, and maintenance to protect water quality
- Streamline permitting process
- Accommodate a range of organic materials anticipated for composting in support of the State's diversion goal

Changes to the General Order Since May 2014 (Handout)

- Reduced Constituents of Concern Monitoring Requirements
- Added Monitoring Requirements for Biosolids
- Annual Fees are Based on
 - Threat to Water Quality and Complexity

General Order Requirements

Exemptions In the General Order

- Agricultural Composting;
- Chipping and grinding facilities;
- Lot clearing by local governmental agencies (i.e., grubbing, tree trimming, etc.) for fire protection;
- Composting activities within a fully-enclosed vessel;
- Composting operations that receive, process, and store less than 500 cubic yards (cy) of allowable materials at any given time;
- Composting operations that receive, process, and store less than 5,000 cy per year of allowable Tier I or Tier II feedstocks, additives, and amendments, *and* implement management practices.

Tiers and Siting Criteria

- Includes:
 - Two Tiers
 - Tier I - smaller facilities < 25,000 cubic yards
 - Siting criteria
 - Limited feedstock choices
 - Tier II - larger facilities \geq 25,000 cubic yards
 - Siting criteria
 - Additional feedstock choices
 - Additional design requirements

Feedstocks

Tier I

- Agricultural materials
- Green materials
- Vegetative food materials
- Anaerobic digestate derived from allowable Tier I feedstocks
- A combination of the allowable Tier I feedstocks

Tier II

- Food materials (non-vegetative)
- Biosolids (Class A, B, and/or EQ)
- Manure
- Anaerobic digestate derived from allowable Tier II feedstocks
- A combination of allowable Tier I and Tier II feedstocks

Additives and Amendments

Tier I

- No more than 10% combined:
 - Fertilizing material at rates will be consumed or immobilized during composting
 - Manure
 - Anaerobic digestate (solid)
 - Other materials approved by the Regional Water Board

Tier II

- No more than 30% combined:
 - Fertilizing material at rates will be consumed or immobilized during composting
 - Liquid food material
 - Anaerobic digestate (solid)
 - Other materials approved by the Regional Water Board

✓ Use of biosolids as additive or amendment is prohibited in both Tier I and Tier II

Working Surfaces (Pad) (Tier II Only)

- Tier II facilities have working surfaces and drainage ditches must have a hydraulic conductivity of 1×10^{-5} cm/s or less, and consist of one of the following:
 - *Minimum one foot compacted soil thickness*
 - *Asphaltic concrete or Portland cement concrete;*
 - *An equivalent engineered alternative approved by the Regional Water Board.*
- *In lieu of meeting the hydraulic conductivity requirement for working surfaces and ditches, applicants may propose to implement a Groundwater Protection Monitoring Program.*

Wastewater Handling Systems (Tier II Only)

- Ponds meet hydraulic conductivity of 1×10^{-6} cm/s, *and* include a liner system:
 - 40-mil geomembrane, 60 mil HDPE underlain by 1 foot of compacted clay, geosynthetic clay liner over prepared base;
 - Portland cement concrete underlain by 40-mil geomembrane or 60-mil HDPE
 - Equivalent engineered alternative approved by the Regional Water Board
- Ponds constructed with pan lysimeter monitoring device under lowest point of the pond
- Tanks must be in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Monitoring

- Constituents
 - Pond (quarterly)
 - Groundwater, if selected (quarterly)
- Biosolids
 - Proof of compliance with ceiling concentrations of 40 CFR 503.13, Table 1, or
 - Use test results or test upon receipt

Brief Overview of Draft EIR

- Contents
 - Existing and New Composting Operations
- Impact Analysis
 - Approach
 - Economic Considerations

Contents of Draft EIR

- Executive Summary
- Introduction and Background
- Project Description
- Impact Analysis Approach
- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry
- Air Quality & GHG
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology, Soils, & Minerals
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology & Water Quality
- Land Use Planning and Recreation
- Noise
- Population & Housing
- Public Services, Utilities & Energy
- Transportation & Traffic
- Cumulative Impacts
- Growth Inducing Impacts
- Alternatives Analysis
- References
- Document Preparation

Impact Analysis Approach

Reasonably Foreseeable Compliance Responses

- Direct Impacts:
 - Construction impacts - site disturbance, expanding footprint, operational changes
 - Upgrading pads (construction)
 - Installing groundwater monitoring systems
 - Managing wastewater using:
 - Retention ponds (lined);
 - Storage Tanks;
 - Upgrading run-on/run-off control systems (construction)

Impact Analysis Approach

Economic Considerations

- Interviewed 8 operations
 - Capacity Range: 25,000 to 140,000 tons per year
 - Public, Private, Public/Private Partnerships
- Based on the economic consideration, exempted less than 5,000 cubic yards.
- Proposed Order should not jeopardize the economic viability of composting operations.

Timeline

- **2003**: Existing Composting waivers expired
- **2009-2012**: Development of a statewide General Order for Composting Operations
- **September 2012**: General Order and Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) released for public review
- **October 2012**: Due to comments on the IS/MND, the General Order and Is/MND were removed from the Board Agenda
- **July 2013**: Notice of Preparation (NOP) released
 - Formally kick off the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) process
- **January 13, 2015**: Draft EIR and General Order Released for Public Comment

Next Steps

- Written Comments
 - Due by March 2, 2015 at Noon
- Prepare Response to Comments
 - March – May 2015
- Present to the Board for Consideration
 - June 2015

Written Comments Due by Noon March 2, 2015

Please indicate on the transmittal subject line:

“Comment Letter – General Order for Composting Operations.”

Preferred: Electronic submittals shall be in pdf text format to the
Clerk to the Board via e-mail at
commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov.

Mail : Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
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