



# **Coordination with Other Agencies Water Quality and Composting Facilities**

Frederick S. Moss

State Water Board/CIWMB

October 2009

# Objectives: Waste Diversion



- Reduce organics disposal 50% by 2020
- Need more capacity - 15 million tons/year
- Additional compost facilities

# Objectives: Water Quality



- Ensure there is no discharge to surface water bodies – or a federal permit is required
- Impacts to groundwater shall not exceed the water quality objectives established in the Regional Water Quality Control Boards' Basin Plans

# Sample Constituents of Concern in Leachate and Runoff at Composting Facilities

- Salts (TDS,EC)
- Nutrients (Nitrates)
- Pathogens (E.coli)
- Metals (Fe,Cu, Mn, Ni, Zn, Al, As)





# Legal Requirements

- Dischargers of waste that could pose a threat to water quality must submit a report of waste discharge to Regional Water Board
- In response, Regional Water Board may issue WDRs or waive WDRs

# Regulatory Considerations



- Feedstocks, additives, amendments, and unfinished compost are considered “waste discharge to land”
- Leachate and runoff data show the discharge may be a “designated waste” such that Title 27 requirements would apply

# Regulatory Considerations



- Larger composting facilities currently have WDRs
- Green waste composting conditional waiver of WDRs in effect 1994 to 2003
- SB 390 (WC Section 13269) requires new waivers of WDRs to have:
  - Conditions
  - Monitoring of conditions
  - 5-year review

# Water Board Statewide Waiver Concept



- Composting facilities comply with law by submitting a report of waste discharge
- Applicable to variety of composting facilities. Not for composting facilities requiring individual WDRs
- Not a waiver from standards or meeting Basin Plan water quality objectives

# Water Board Statewide Waiver Concept



- Flexible framework with tiered water quality protection measures - based on composting materials and site conditions (rainfall, depth to water...)
- Streamlined issuance if facility meets prescriptive requirements. Potentially slower process for Regional Water Board review of alternatives

# Statewide Waiver Development and Interagency Coordination



- Joint public workshop August 2009 to discuss concept of Statewide Conditional Waiver of Title 27 WDRs
- Water Boards/CIWMB interagency meetings
- Water Boards workgroup
- Stakeholder input
- Regulatory workshops
- State Water Board consideration of Draft Statewide Waiver and Final CEQA Document

Thank You!

