Draft Amendment to the GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL COMPOSTING OPERATIONS, STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ORDER WQ 2020-XXXX-DWQ, and Incorporating Other Non-substantive Changes.

This document contains ~~red strikethrough~~ and blue underlined text to show the revisions made to Order WQ 2015-0121-DWQ, dated October 31, 2019.This March 12, 2020 draft reflects changes since February 19, 2020 in **green double underline** and **green double strikethrough**.

*[NOTE: the proposed revisions, if adopted, will be inserted into Attachment B, Monitoring and Reporting Program, starting with Section A, Routine Monitoring Requirements, and replace Number 2, Detention Pond Monitoring, through Section B, Reporting Requirements, Number 1, Annual Monitoring and Maintenance Report, of the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Commercial Composting Operations.*]

* 1. DETENTION POND MONITORING (IF APPLICABLE)
     1. Any Discharger enrolled under this General Order that has a detention pond to manage wastewater onsite must conduct monitoring of the wastewater within the detention pond quarterly when there is sufficient water and analyze the sample for the parameters listed Table B-1. These field parameters are measured during each sampling event. **Water sample analyses shall be conducted by a laboratory certified for such analyses by the State Water Board’s Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program** **A laboratory providing water sample analyses must hold a valid certificate of accreditation from the State of California Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) for the analytical test methods or analytes selected**. These laboratory analyses shall be conducted in accordance with **methods approved for use in** 40 Code of Federal Regulations part 136 (Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants) or other test methods approved by the Regional Water Board.

**Table B-1. Detention Pond Monitoring**

| **Constituent** | **Units** | **Sample Frequency** | **Reporting Frequency** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| pH | standard units | Quarterly | Annually |
| Dissolved Oxygen | mg/L | Quarterly | Annually |
| Total Dissolved Solids | mg/L | Quarterly | Annually |
| Fixed Dissolved Solids | mg/L | Quarterly | Annually |
| Total Nitrogen | mg/L | Quarterly | Annually |
| Specific Conductance | µmhos/cm | Quarterly | Annually |

Detention Pond Leak Detection Monitoring (Tier 2 only) – The leak detection monitoring device (i.e. pan lysimeter) shall be checked monthly during the wet season for liquid. Upon detection of liquid in a previously dry monitoring device Discharger shall notify the Regional Water Board within **48 hours**; collect a sample and analyze the liquid for the constituents listed in Table B-1; remove the liquid from the device; and continue to monitor weekly. If liquid reappears, another sample must be collected and analyzed for the constituents in Table B-1. If the liquid is confirmed to be wastewater, the Discharger must submit a Response Action Plan within 30 days for review and approval by the Regional Water Board.

* + 1. The results of any monitoring conducted more frequently than required at the locations specified in this General Order shall be reported to the Regional Water Board.
  1. BIOSOLIDS MONITORING (IF APPLICABLE)
     1. Any Discharger enrolled under this General Order that uses biosolids as a feedstock, shall present analytical results from a **laboratory with a valid certificate of accreditation from the State of California ELAP for the analytical test methods or analytes selected** **certified** **laboratory** to show proof that the biosolids meet, at a minimum, with the ceiling concentrations listed in Table 1 of 40 Code of Federal Regulations part 503. Biosolids may be characterized by the entity that generates or otherwise processes the material. Use of analytical data prepared by such an entity may be accepted in lieu of the sampling listed below. The characterization shall contain a description of the sample procedures, the analytical report, and a statement by a responsible person that the characterization was performed in a way that accurately characterizes the quality of the biosolids ~~The statement shall be signed by, and shall contain,~~ and includes the certification language contained in the General Order under Reporting Requirements. U.S. EPA regularly reviews, and may revise, the limitations and requirements of 40 Code of Federal Regulations part 503 and should be reviewed for updates.
     2. Any discharger enrolled under this General Order that uses biosolids as a feedstock and does not show results from a **laboratory with a valid certificate of accreditation from the State of California ELAP for the analytical test methods or analytes selected** **certified** **laboratory** shall perform monitoring to characterize the material for the parameters listed in Table B-2. The characterization shall contain a description of the sample procedures, the analytical report, and a statement by a responsible person that the characterization was performed in a way that accurately characterizes the quality of the biosolids. ~~The statement shall be signed by,~~ and ~~shall contain~~ includes the certification language contained in the General Order under Reporting Requirements.

**Table B-2. Biosolids Monitoring**

| **Constituent** | **Units** | **Sample Frequency** | **Reporting Frequency** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Arsenic | mg/kg | Sample each delivery | Annually |
| Cadmium | mg/kg | Sample each delivery | Annually |
| Copper | mg/kg | Sample each delivery | Annually |
| Lead | mg/kg | Sample each delivery | Annually |
| Mercury | mg/kg | Sample each delivery | Annually |
| Molybdenum | mg/kg | Sample each delivery | Annually |
| Nickel | mg/kg | Sample each delivery | Annually |
| Selenium | mg/kg | Sample each delivery | Annually |
| Zinc | mg/kg | Sample each delivery | Annually |

* 1. GROUNDWATER PROTECTION MONITORING (IF APPLICABLE)
     1. A Discharger that is required to perform groundwater monitoring ~~due to site conditions~~ shall perform the monitoring shown in Table B-3. **Water sample analyses shall be conducted by a laboratory certified for such analyses by the State Water Board’s Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program** **A laboratory providing water sample analyses must hold a valid certificate of accreditation from the State of California ELAP for the analytical test methods or analytes selected**. These laboratory analyses shall be conducted in accordance with **methods approved in** 40 Code of Federal Regulations part 136 (Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants) or other test methods approved by the Regional Water Board.
     2. Discharger is required to implement the sampling and analysis program detailed in the approved Groundwater Protection Monitoring Plan submitted with the NOI as part of the accompanying technical report described in Attachment D, which is hereby incorporated by reference as part of this MRP.
     3. The results of any monitoring conducted more frequently than required at the locations specified in this General Order shall be reported to the Regional Water Board.

**Table B-3. Groundwater Monitoring**

| Constituent | Units | Sample Frequency | Reporting Frequency |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Groundwater Elevation ~~a~~ | 0.01 Feet | Quarterly | Annually |
| Depth to Groundwater | 0.01 Feet | Quarterly | Annually |
| Gradient | Feet/Feet | Quarterly | Annually |
| Gradient Direction | Degrees | Quarterly | Annually |
| pH | Std. Units | Quarterly | Annually |
| Total Dissolved Solids | mg/L | Quarterly | Annually |
| Nitrate as Nitrogen | mg/L | Quarterly | Annually |
| Sodium | mg/L | Quarterly | Annually |
| Chloride | mg/L | Quarterly | Annually |
| Total Coliform Bacteria ~~b~~ | MPN/100 mL | Quarterly | Annually |

Notes for Table B-3:

* Groundwater elevation shall be based on depth to water using a surveyed measuring point elevation on the well and a surveyed reference elevation.
* **If** Total Coliform **Organisms shall be Bacteria are** measured **with the multiple tube fermentation technique,** **using** **use** a minimum of 15 tubes**, or** **and** three dilutions.
  1. GENERAL SAMPLING REQUIREMENTS
     1. The Discharger shall use clean sample containers and sample handling, storage, and preservation methods that are accepted or recommended **or required** by the **approved** analytical method **laboratory or, as appropriate, in accordance with approved U.S. EPA analytical methods**.
     2. All samples collected shall be representative of the volume and nature of the material being sampled.
     3. All sample containers shall be labeled, and records maintained to show the time and date of collection as well as the person collecting the sample and the sample location.
     4. All samples collected for laboratory analyses shall be preserved and submitted to the laboratory within the required holding time appropriate for the analytical method used and the constituents analyzed.
     5. All samples submitted to a laboratory for analyses shall be identified in a properly completed and signed Chain of Custody form.
     6. Field instruments may be used provided:
        1. The operator is trained in the proper use and maintenance of the instruments;
        2. The instruments are field calibrated prior to each monitoring event; and
        3. Instruments are serviced and/or calibrated by the manufacturer at the recommended frequency.
     7. Analytical results falling between the method detection limit (MDL) and the practical quantitation limit (PQL) shall be reported as “estimated,” be accompanied by documents reporting both the MDL and PQL values for that analytical run, and be flagged appropriately (i.e., “J-flagged”).
     8. MDLs **and PQLs** shall be derived by the laboratory for each analytical **procedure** **method** in accordance with **40 CFR 136 the State Water Board’s Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program**. **The PQLs shall be derived consistent with the analytical method, or described by the laboratory and shall be approved by the Regional Water Board**. In a relatively interference-free laboratory, derived MDLs and PQLs are expected to agree closely with published **U.S. EPA** MDLs and PQLs **such as those published by U.S. EPA**.
     9. If the laboratory suspects that, due to a change in matrix or other effects, the MDL or PQL for a particular analytical run differs significantly from historic MDL or PQL values, results shall be flagged and reported in the quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) report.
     10. The MDL shall always be calculated such that it represents the lowest achievable concentration associated with a 99 percent reliability of non-zero results.
     11. The PQL shall represent the lowest concentration at which a numerical value can be assigned with reasonable certainty.
     12. All quality assurance/quality control data shall be reported, along with sample results to which it applies. This information shall include method, equipment, analytical detection, quantitation limits, recovery rates, an explanation for any recovery rate that is outside method specifications, results of equipment and method blanks, results of matrix spikes and surrogate samples, and the frequency of quality control analysis. Sample results shall be reported unadjusted for blank results or spike recovery. In cases where contaminants are detected in the quality assurance/quality control samples (i.e., field, trip, or laboratory blanks), the accompanying sample results shall be appropriately flagged.

1. **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

**1**. ANNUAL MONITORING AND MAINTENANCE REPORT

The Annual Monitoring and Maintenance Report shall be submitted to the Regional Water Board by **April 1st** each year. The Discharger must submit this report in a searchable, electronic format (i.e., Portable Document Format (PDF) and Electronic Deliverable Format (EDF) via [the State Water Board’s Internet GeoTracker system](http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/) <http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/> as required by this General Order.   
The report must include the following:

* + 1. A transmittal letter explaining the essential points shall accompany each report. At a minimum, the transmittal letter shall identify any violations found since the last report was submitted and a description of the actions taken or planned for correcting those violations, including any references to previously submitted time schedules. If no violations have occurred since the last submittal, this shall be stated in the transmittal letter;
    2. A map or aerial photograph showing the locations of observation stations and monitoring points;
    3. Tabular and graphical summaries of all water quality data collected during the year, including wastewater monitoring if applicable; and
    4. All historical monitoring data collected during the previous 5 years, and for which there are detectable results, including data for the previous year, shall be submitted in tabular form and in a digital file format.
    5. Monitoring information must include at a minimum:
       1. The date, identity of sample, monitoring point from which the sample was collected, and time of sampling or measurement;
       2. The name of the individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurements;
       3. Date and time that analyses were started and completed;
       4. The analytical techniques or method used, including method of preserving the sample and the identity and volume of reagents used; and
       5. Field instrument calibration logs.
    6. Copy of the complete laboratory analytical report(s), signed by the laboratory director or project manager, and at a minimum contain:
       1. Complete sample analytical reports;
       2. Complete laboratory QA/QC reports;
       3. A discussion of the sample and QA/QC data;
       4. A properly completed “chain of custody” from the analyzed samples; and
       5. A transmittal letter stating whether or not all of the analytical work was supervised by the director of the laboratory, and contain the following statement:

*“All analyses were conducted at a laboratory* **accredited****certified** *for such analyses by the State Water Board’s Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program* **in accordance with current U.S. EPA procedures***.”*

* + 1. Results and discussion from the annual survey;
    2. Results and discussion of the groundwater protection monitoring, if applicable, including statistical analysis as submitted in the NOI and accompanying technical report, and approved by the Regional Water Board;
    3. A summary of completion of inspections and maintenance of the working surfaces, berms, ditches, erosion control BMPs or other containment structures;
    4. An evaluation of completion of inspections and maintenance on the effectiveness of the wastewater handling facilities including results of the annual testing of wastewater, capacity issues, nuisance conditions, and system problems;
    5. A comprehensive discussion of the compliance record, and the result of any corrective actions taken or planned which may be needed to bring the Discharger into full compliance with this General Order; and
    6. A discussion of any data gaps and potential deficiencies/redundancies in the monitoring system or reporting program.