

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 28-29, 2018
Prepared on June 28-29, 2018**

ITEM NUMBER: 7

SUBJECT: Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements for the Engel & Gray Composting Facility, Santa Barbara County, Order No. 99-11

STAFF PERSON: Ryan Lodge (805) 549-3506 or Ryan.Lodge@waterboards.ca.gov

KEY INFORMATION:

Location: 250 South Ray Road, Santa Maria
Operator: Engel & Gray, Inc.
Type of Waste: Compost (green waste, biosolids, crop residuals, food waste)
Capacity: 100,000 cubic yards of active compost material
Existing Orders: 99-11
ECM Place ID: GT-L10001781016
GeoTracker ID: L10001781016
This Action: Rescind Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 99-11

DISCUSSION

Engel & Gray, Inc. (Discharger) operates the Engel & Gray Regional Compost Facility (Facility) on property owned by the City of Santa Maria that is adjacent to the City's municipal wastewater treatment plant. The Discharger receives organic materials (residential green waste, biosolids, manure, agricultural crop residuals, food waste) for use in the production of compost. The Water Board has regulated the Facility through Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Order No. 99-11 since 1999. Water Board staff recommends rescinding WDR Order No. 99-11 and administratively enrolling the Facility in the Statewide General WDRs for Compost Operations Order WQ 2015-0121-DWQ.

The State Water Resources Control Board adopted Order No. WQ 2015-0121-DWQ, General WDRs for Composting Operations (General Compost Order) in August 2015. The General Compost Order requires compost operators implement measures to protect water quality including improvements to working surfaces, drainage channels, and site retention basins to prevent wastewater discharges to surface water and groundwater. The General Compost Order applies to composting operations that accept, store, and process materials to produce compost. Acceptable materials include green material, food material, residentially co-collected food and green materials, vegetative food material, paper material, agricultural material, manures, and [municipal wastewater treatment system] biosolids. Compostable materials can degrade water quality by releasing salts, nutrients, metals, and pathogens into the environment if not properly

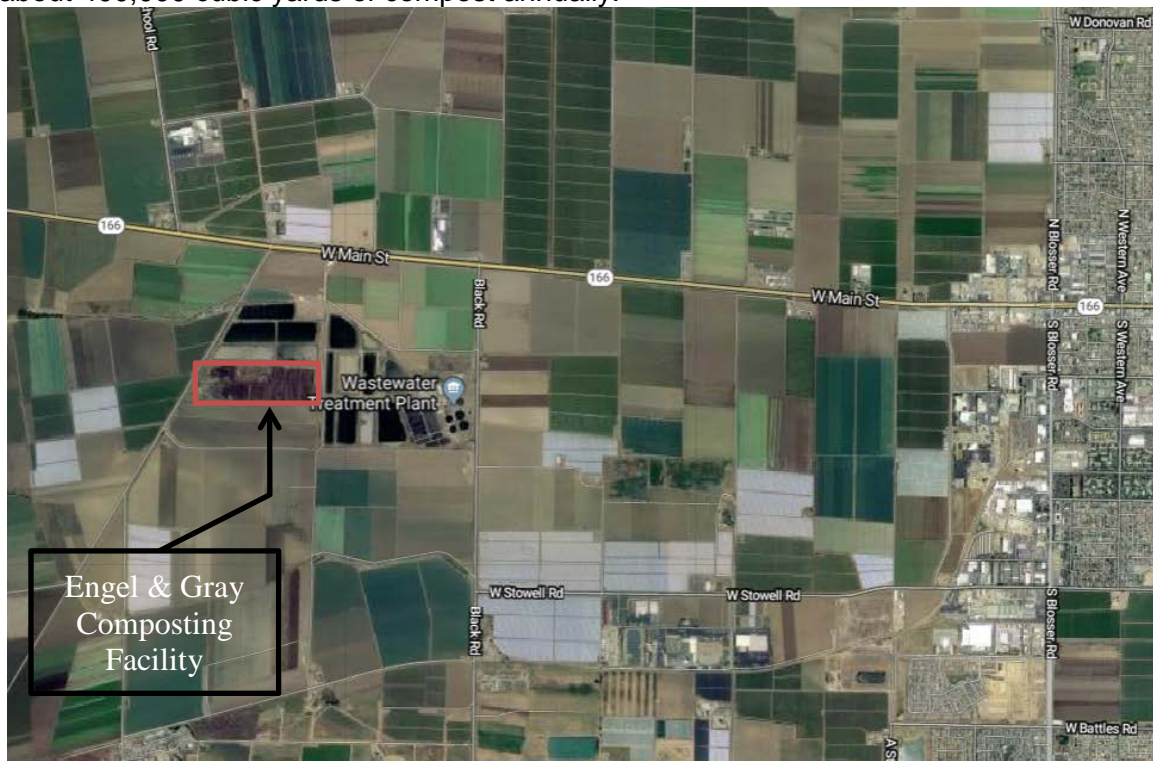
managed. The General Compost Order requirements are more stringent than the WDR Order No. 99-11 requirements and necessitate site improvements to comply with the Order. For example, the Discharger is required to install an engineered liner system in the existing detention ponds to meet General Compost Order hydraulic conductivity standards to protect groundwater quality.

The General Compost Order can be reviewed at the State Water Resources Control Board Compost website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/compost/

On January 5, 2018, the Discharger submitted a notice of intent to comply with the General Compost Order. The notice of intent included a technical report as required by the General Compost Order and a schedule to implement site improvements necessary to bring the Facility into compliance with the General Compost Order. Water Board staff is working with the Discharger to ensure site improvements are made in a timely manner while not disrupting the ongoing Facility operations. Water Board staff will enroll the facility in the General Compost Order when the Water Board rescinds the existing WDR Order No. 99-11 (i.e., effective date of General Compost Order enrollment will be the date of rescission for the existing WDRs).

FACILITY BACKGROUND

The Facility covers about 40 acres and is within an area of intensive agricultural land use approximately three miles west of the City of Santa Maria off of West Main Street (Highway 166) as shown in the figure below. The Facility is immediately adjacent to the City of Santa Maria wastewater treatment facility, and is bordered by wastewater disposal ponds to the north and east and agricultural land to the south and west. The Facility receives feedstock materials from multiple commercial facilities and municipal waste handling and wastewater treatment facilities within Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties and locally distributes high-quality compost meeting state and federal standards for commercial and household use. The Facility produces about 400,000 cubic yards of compost annually.



COMPLIANCE HISTORY

The Discharger is currently in compliance with the existing Order and has been responsive to Water Board staff's information requests during the General Compost Order enrollment process.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY

Rescission of waste discharge requirements for existing facilities is exempt from provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resource Code, Section 21100 et seq.) in accordance with Section 15301, Chapter 3, Title 14 of the California Administrative Code.

PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENTS

On March 28, 2018, the Water Board notified Engel & Gray and other interested parties that the Central Coast Water Board will consider rescinding WDR Order No. 99-11 at its regularly scheduled hearing on June 28-29, 2018, in Santa Barbara. Written public comments were due by Friday April 27, 2018. No comments were received during the public comment period.

RECOMMENDATION

Rescind Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 99-11 and administratively enroll the Facility in the General Compost Order.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment 1: Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 99-11