
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

20 January 2017

Kathleen Vicini
Vicini Brothers, LLC
15850 Willow Creek Road
Plymouth, CA 95669

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

**WATER QUALITY ORDER 2015-0121-DWQ
GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPOSTING OPERATIONS
VICINI BROTHERS, LLC
VICINI BROTHERS GREEN MATERIAL RECYCLING
AMADOR COUNTY**

On 4 August 2016, Vicini Brothers, LLC (hereafter Discharger) submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) Technical Report, and filing fee for the Vicini Brothers Green Material Recycling composting facility (Facility), and on 15 December 2016 submitted an update to the Technical Report to obtain coverage under Water Quality Order 2015-0121-DWQ, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Composting Operations (hereafter General Order), for composting operations at the above-referenced site. The complete General Order can be accessed at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2015/wqo2015_0121_dwq.pdf

This Notice of Applicability (NOA) was developed after the review of your NOI and Technical Reports as described in the attached Staff Memorandum which is a part of this NOA. Based on staff's review, the Facility meets the conditions of the General Order, and is hereby covered under General Order **2015-0121-DWQ-R5S004** as a **Tier I** composting operation. The Discharger must comply with all Tier I requirements of the General Order.

The filing fee for the Vicini Brothers Green Material Recycling Facility is based on Threat to Water Quality and Complexity rating of 3C. The submitted \$2,088 filing fee covers the first year permitted by this NOA. The Discharger shall submit the required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing issued by the State Water Resources Control Board) until the NOA is officially terminated.

To fully comply with this NOA, please familiarize yourself with the contents of the enclosed Staff Memorandum and all of the requirements of the General Order. The Discharger is responsible for implementing all operations in a manner that complies with the General Order. Any noncompliance with this General Order constitutes a violation of the Water Code, and is grounds for enforcement action, and/or termination of enrollment under this General Order.

Conditions of this Composting General Order include but are not limited to:

- The Facility must be brought to full compliance with the General Order no later than **4 August 2022**, which is within six years from submittal of NOI. The timeline for compliance is proposed in the submitted Technical Report and specified in the attached Staff Memorandum.
- By **1 March 2018**, submit a work plan for review and approval for the new detention basin and associated run-off collection channel.
- By **15 November 2018**, construct new detention basin and associated run-off collection channel.
- Technical reports must be submitted 90 days prior to each construction activity, while post-construction reports must be submitted 60 days after the completion of each construction activity.
- The Annual Monitoring and Maintenance Report, technical reports, and all monitoring reports must be uploaded into the State Water Board's GeoTracker database.
- A revised NOI is required at least 90 days prior to:
 - adding a new feedstock, additive, or amendment;
 - changing material or construction specifications;
 - changing a monitoring program; or
 - changing an operation or activity not described in the approved NOI and technical report.

Attachment B of the General Order includes specific monitoring and reporting requirements that you must comply with, including routine monitoring and reporting to the Central Valley Regional Water Control Board. The first year Annual Monitoring and Maintenance Report as identified in the General Order must be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board no later than **1 April 2017**, and then annually by 1 April each year.

Now that the NOA has been issued, the Board's Compliance and Enforcement Section will provide management of this composting site. Todd DeFrate is your new point of contact for any questions about the General Order and NOA, and you may contact him at the contact email and phone number below. If you find it necessary to make a change to your permitted operations, Todd DeFrate will direct you to the appropriate Permitting staff.

All monitoring and technical reports and other correspondence must be converted to searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically to the State Water Board's GeoTracker database (see General Order, Report Submittals). Once you receive an upload confirmation from GeoTracker that your report has been received, please send a courtesy email and confirmation number to centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov and to the staff person indicated below.

To ensure that your submittal is routed to the appropriate staff person, the following information should be included in the body of the email or any documentation submitted to the mailing address for this office:

Attention:	Todd DeFrate, Compliance and Enforcement Unit Todd.DeFrate@waterboards.ca.gov (916) 464-4737
Discharger Name:	Vicini Brothers, LLC
Facility Name:	Vicini Brothers Green Material Recycling
County:	Amador County
CIWQS Place ID:	827096

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the attached Staff Memorandum, please contact Marty Hartzell at (916) 464-4630 or Marty.Hartzell@waterboards.ca.gov.


PAMELA C. CREEDON For
Executive Officer

Enclosures: Staff Memorandum

cc: Nadine Langley, State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento
Howard Hold, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Rancho Cordova
Mike Israel, Amador County Environmental Health Department, Jackson

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

STAFF MEMORANDUM

TO: Marty Hartzell, PG, CHG
Senior Engineering Geologist

FROM: Benjamin Lehmann
Scientific Aid

DATE: 11 January 2017

**SUBJECT: APPLICABILITY OF COVERAGE UNDER STATE WATER RESOURCES
CONTROL BOARD WATER QUALITY ORDER 2015-0121-DWQ, VICINI
BROTHERS GREEN MATERIAL RECYCLING, AMADOR COUNTY**

REPORT OF WASTE DISCHARGE

On 4 August 2016, Vicini Brothers, LLC (hereafter, Discharger) submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) consisting of a Notice of Intent (NOI), a Technical Report and Filing Fees for the Vicini Brothers Green Material Recycling (VBGMR) facility. A revised NOI was submitted on 15 December 2016. The ROWD was submitted to obtain coverage under Water Quality Order 2015-0121-DWQ, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Composting Operations (hereafter General Order) for composting operations at the above-referenced site.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The existing facility is located on a 40-acre property at 15850 Willow Creek Road in Amador County. The Assessor Parcel number is 008-120-064.

The Vicini Brothers Green Material Recycling facility began operations in 2009. Composting operations occur on approximately four acres of the property on the top of a low rise area that drains naturally in all directions, see Attachment A. According to the Technical Report, the underlying geology of the facility is Paleozoic and Mesozoic metasedimentary rocks. These metasedimentary rocks are overlain by the Valley Springs Formation which is characterized as quartzitic gravel and conglomerate. Percolation tests from an adjacent property to the northwest show an average permeability of 0.57 inches per hour for the same soil series and parent material.

Land uses within one mile of the facility include cattle grazing, hay production, vineyards, large-lot rural residential, and an aggregate extraction & processing facility. The closest surface water is an unnamed tributary to Willow Creek approximately 700 feet away from the perimeter of composting operations at its closest point, which is greater than the General Order requirement of 100 feet. There is one onsite water supply well located approximately 850 feet northwest of composting operations. Depth to groundwater is approximately 25 feet below ground surface, and groundwater flow direction is to the northwest. Shallow aquifers do exist in gravel and sand layers of ancient alluvial channels, but the limits of the alluvial channels and lateral lithologic variations result in complex and limited boundaries for groundwater flow.

Data from the Camp Pardee Station (DWR Flood Emergency Response Information Exchange, Station B20 1428 00) were used to estimate the average annual precipitation at 21.72 inches, and to calculate the magnitude of the design storm (25-year 24-hour peak storm event) at 2.91 inches. Based on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map, 06005C0325F, the facility is not located within the 100-year flood plain.

COMPOSTING OPERATIONS

The facility currently utilizes open windrow composting, receiving approximately 10,000 cubic yards of raw material per year of green waste feedstock from a single commercial source. Feedstock is offloaded and grinded to appropriate size before being arranged into windrows in the active composting areas where it resides for six to twelve months. Windrows are turned periodically during active composting and water is occasionally applied to facilitate decomposition and for fire control. No additives or biosolids are used at this point of the process. After the active composting phase is completed, incompatible debris (e.g., plastic, glass, metal), are removed by hand and are appropriately disposed. No amendments are used in the facility's composting operations. Finished materials are sold for landscaping, soil amendment and mulch, and some materials are utilized in the production of sediment control devices (compost socks).

The working pad is constructed from reworked alluvial deposits from the Valley Springs Formation with some remaining placer sediments. More permeable surface soils have been previously removed from the working surface area by prior grading operations. The working pad is constructed and graded to facilitate drainage and to minimize ponding. Storm water run-off from working surfaces is directed north and west to a detention channel that is adequately sized to contain a 25-year, 24-hour peak storm event. Due to the high infiltration rates of the current detention channel, the Discharger has proposed to construct a new detention basin which will be clay lined to reduce infiltration. During construction of the new detention basin, the working surface will be re-configured to eliminate areas that cannot drain north and west to the new basin. Also an earthen channel along the entire northerly edge of the working surface will be constructed to collect and convey working surface run-off to the new detention basin, see Attachment B. The facility is positioned near the top of a low rise area that drains naturally in all directions; therefore, run-on from adjacent areas does not require active management. There is one location along the easterly property boundary approximately 150 feet north of the southeasterly fence corner that is currently being monitored during the 2016-2017 rainy season for potential run-on. Should run-on be identified at this location the Discharger will immediately develop and implement structural controls to eliminate run-on.

According to the Technical Report, and detailed in their site survey conducted July 2016, a section of the existing detention channel had accumulated sediments. Removal of accumulated sediment from the detention channel was completed in 2016. The Discharger also plans to construct check dams at regular intervals throughout their existing detention channel in order to best utilize the channel's capacity by 15 November 2017.

The Discharger must submit a technical report with design information at least 90 days prior to new construction of working surfaces, detention ponds, berms, ditches, or any other water quality protection containment structure for approval by the Central Valley Water Board. The design information must include water balance calculations for detention ponds. The Discharger must submit a post-construction report to the Central Valley Water Board within 60 days of completing all construction activities associated with all applicable containment and monitoring structures, as required for compliance with this General Order and the MRP.

TIMELINE FOR COMPLIANCE

The table below shows the proposed improvement plan schedule which incorporates on-going operations of the facility, seasonal weather, fluctuations in the market demand of finished product, and company resources. VBGMR must comply with the proposed timeline.

Improvement	Completion Dates
Construct new detention basin and associated run-off collection channel	15 November 2018

MONITORING AND REPORTING

VBGMR will regularly inspect and maintain all containment, control, monitoring structures, and monitoring systems pursuant to the submitted ROWD and the Attachment B of General Order Monitoring and Reporting requirements. The frequency of inspections will be sufficient to prevent discharges of feedstocks, additives, amendments, compost (active, curing, or final product), or wastewater from creating, threatening to create, or contributing to conditions of contamination, pollution, or nuisance.

VBGMR will conduct a monitoring program as prescribed in the Attachment B of General Order Monitoring and Reporting requirements. Sections that apply are A.1 (Facility Inspections), A.2 (Detention Pond Monitoring), A.5 (General Sampling Requirements), B (Reporting Requirements), and C (Record-Keeping Requirements). Results of monitoring will be reported annually in the Annual Monitoring and Maintenance Report which will be submitted by **1 April** of each year as long as the Notice of Applicability is in effect.

SITE CLOSURE

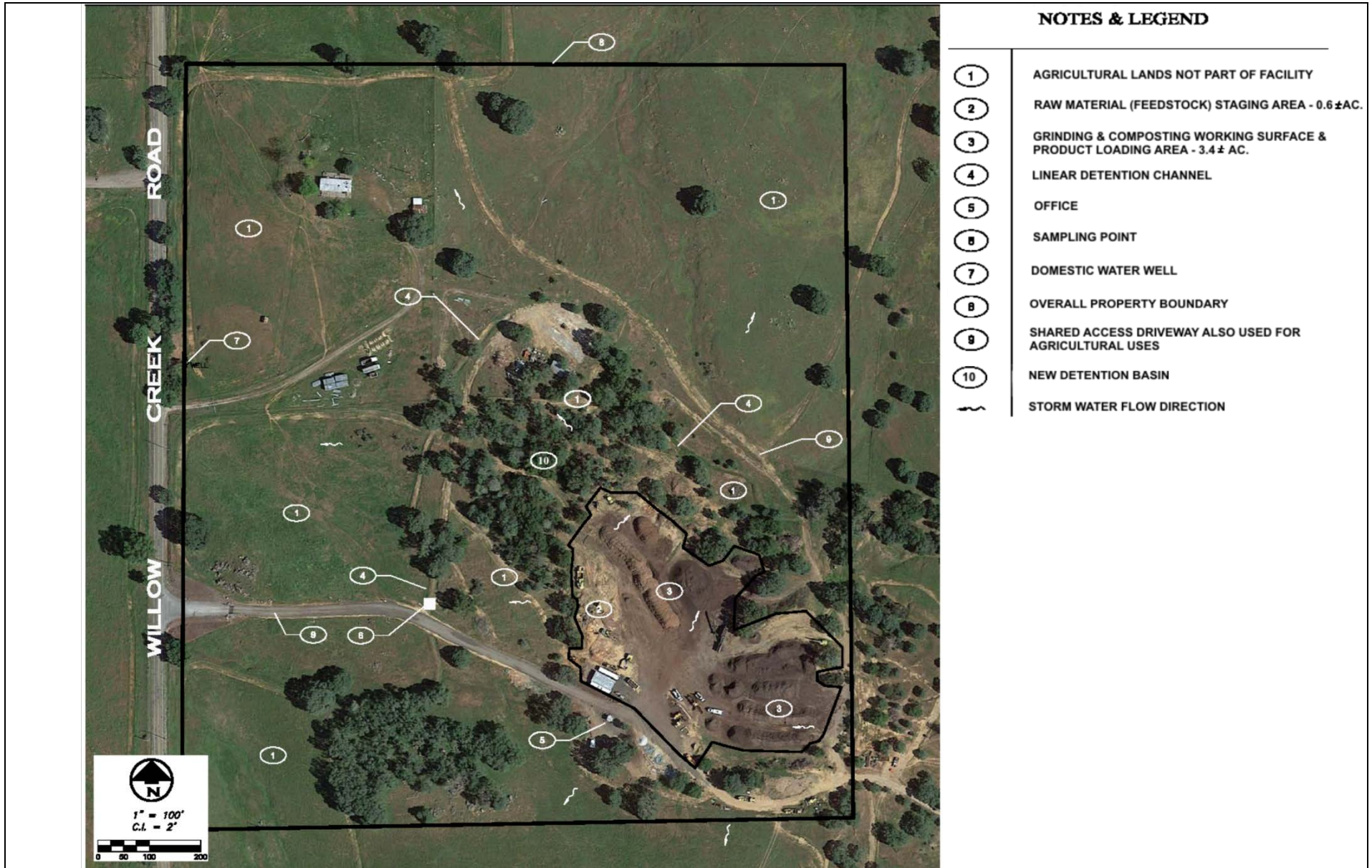
At least 90 days prior to ceasing composting operations, VBGMR shall submit a Site Closure Plan to the RWQCB for approval. The site restoration shall include work necessary to protect public health, safety, and the environment.

DISCUSSION

The Technical Report reveals that the current unlined detention channel has a high infiltration rate which allows contact storm water to infiltrate into the subsurface. The General Order requires that detention ponds must be designed, constructed, and maintained to prevent conditions contributing to, causing, and threatening to cause contamination, pollution, or nuisance. In order to meet this requirement, the Discharger has proposed to construct a new clay lined detention basin which will greatly reduce infiltration rates of compost wastewater.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on staff review of the VBGMR's NOI, Technical Report, and supporting documents, VBGMR meets the minimum requirements of the General Order. The Notice of Applicability can be issued and stay in effect as long as the Discharger implements all operations in a manner that complies with the requirements of the General Order.



NOTES & LEGEND

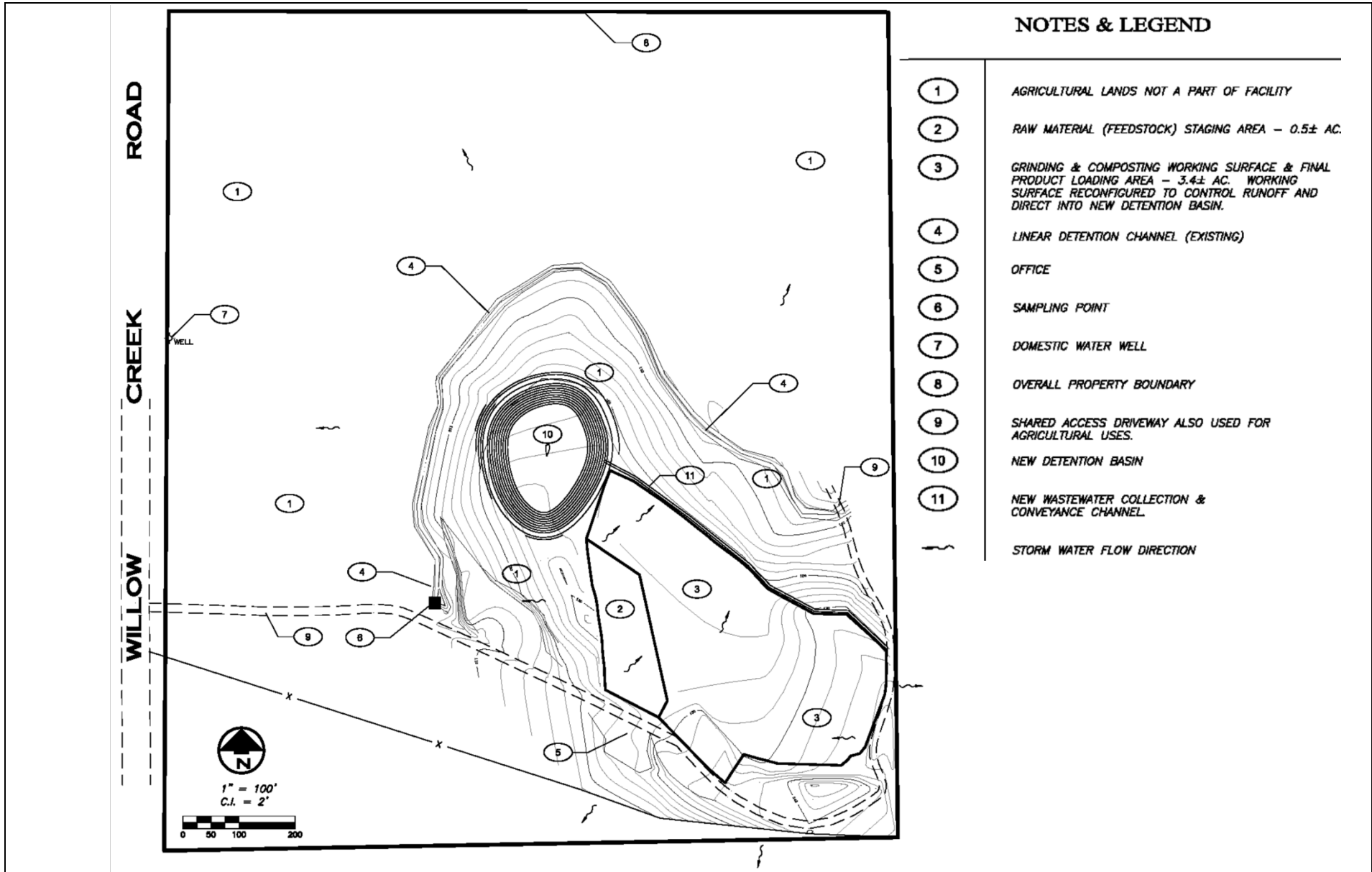
- ① AGRICULTURAL LANDS NOT PART OF FACILITY
- ② RAW MATERIAL (FEEDSTOCK) STAGING AREA - 0.6 ± AC.
- ③ GRINDING & COMPOSTING WORKING SURFACE & PRODUCT LOADING AREA - 3.4 ± AC.
- ④ LINEAR DETENTION CHANNEL
- ⑤ OFFICE
- ⑥ SAMPLING POINT
- ⑦ DOMESTIC WATER WELL
- ⑧ OVERALL PROPERTY BOUNDARY
- ⑨ SHARED ACCESS DRIVEWAY ALSO USED FOR AGRICULTURAL USES
- ⑩ NEW DETENTION BASIN
- ~ STORM WATER FLOW DIRECTION

Approximate Scale

Drawing Reference:
 Vicini Brothers, LLC
 Vicini Brothers Green Material Recycling
 Revised Technical Report 12-15-16
 Site Plan, Sheet 1 of 8

SITE MAP

Vicini Brothers, LLC
 Vicini Brothers Green Material Recycling
 Amador County

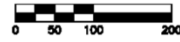


NOTES & LEGEND

- ① AGRICULTURAL LANDS NOT A PART OF FACILITY
- ② RAW MATERIAL (FEEDSTOCK) STAGING AREA - 0.5± AC.
- ③ GRINDING & COMPOSTING WORKING SURFACE & FINAL PRODUCT LOADING AREA - 3.4± AC. WORKING SURFACE RECONFIGURED TO CONTROL RUNOFF AND DIRECT INTO NEW DETENTION BASIN.
- ④ LINEAR DETENTION CHANNEL (EXISTING)
- ⑤ OFFICE
- ⑥ SAMPLING POINT
- ⑦ DOMESTIC WATER WELL
- ⑧ OVERALL PROPERTY BOUNDARY
- ⑨ SHARED ACCESS DRIVEWAY ALSO USED FOR AGRICULTURAL USES.
- ⑩ NEW DETENTION BASIN
- ⑪ NEW WASTEWATER COLLECTION & CONVEYANCE CHANNEL
- STORM WATER FLOW DIRECTION



1" = 100'
C.I. = 2'



Approximate Scale

Drawing Reference:
 Vicini Brothers, LLC
 Vicini Brothers Green Material Recycling
 Revised Technical Report 12-15-16
 Site Plan Detail Proposed Configuration, Sheet 3 of 8

PROPOSED SITE PLAN

Vicini Brothers, LLC
 Vicini Brothers Green Material Recycling
 Amador County