

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

RESOLUTION NO. 96-018

**REGULATION
OF
GREENWASTE COMPOSTING OPERATIONS**

- WHEREAS,** California Water Code Section 13260 (a) requires that any person discharging wastes or proposing to discharge wastes within the Region, other than to a community sewer system, that could affect the quality of the waters of the State, shall file a report of waste discharge (report); and
- WHEREAS;** The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, has a statutory obligation to prescribe waste discharge requirements except where a waiver is not against the public interest pursuant to California Water Code Section 13269; and
- WHEREAS;** California Water Code Section 13269 stipulates that any waiver of filing a report and/or prescribing a requirement shall be conditional and may be terminated at any time by the Regional Board; and
- WHEREAS;** Discharges of up to 500 cubic yards at any given time of green waste, food processing waste, agricultural waste, or paper waste for storage and treatment by composting on properties such as agricultural or residential property, parks, community gardens, or nurseries are unlikely to affect the quality of the waters of the State and;
- WHEREAS;** Discharges whose total volume exceeds 500 cubic yards at any given time (including green waste, food processing wastes, agricultural waste, paper waste, or any approved additives) for storage and treatment by composting may affect the quality of the waters of the state through discharge of leachate containing organic or inorganic by-products of decomposition into ground or surface waters. Discharges of green waste, food processing waste, agricultural waste, or paper waste can be managed and treated in a manner that chemically or biochemically degrades by-products contained in waste and leachate, and contains, controls, or prevents any discharge of waste or associated leachate to waters of the State; and
- WHEREAS;** The Regional Board finds that waiver of a report and issuance of a requirement, where such a waiver is not against the public interest, would enable Regional Board staff resources to be used more effectively; and
- WHEREAS;** The Regional Board finds that a waiver of report and issuance of a requirement for greenwaste composting operations would not be against the public interest because:
1. This type of discharge is effectively regulated by other public agencies, and by the discharger pursuant to State regulations or guidelines.

2. This discharge complies with the Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region.
3. This type of discharge does not adversely affect the quality of or the beneficial uses of the waters of the State; and

WHEREAS; The Regional Board finds that a waiver of filing a report and issuance of a requirement for the types of discharges identified herein would not be against the public interest; and

WHEREAS; The Regional Board staff has prepared a Negative Declaration in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 12000 et. seq.) and state guidelines, and the Regional Board has determined there will be no significant adverse water quality impact; and

WHEREAS; Regional Board Order No. 96-019 contains the conditions for waiving issuance of waste discharge for greenwaste operations.

WHEREAS; The Regional Board held a hearing on May 22, 1996 in the City of Indian Wells and considered all evidence concerning this matter; now therefore be it

RESOLVED; That the Regional Board adopts the Negative Declaration and directs the Regional Board's Executive Officer to file all appropriate notices; and be it further

RESOLVED; That the Regional Board regulate greenwaste operations in accordance with Board Order No. 96-019.

I, Philip A. Gruenberg, Executive Office, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region on May 22, 1996.



Executive Office