



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

9 May 2017

CERTIFIED MAIL
7016 2710 0000 2623 8436

Blake Houston
Valley Naturals Composting, LLC
31821 Road 160
Visalia, CA 93292

CERTIFIED MAIL
7016 2710 0000 2623 8443

Mary-Jane Kelch
12036 Avenue 340
Visalia, CA 93291

CORRECTION OF ENROLLEE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER, GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPOSTING OPERATIONS WQ 2015-0121-DWQ, VALLEY NATURALS COMPOSTING FACILITY, TULARE COUNTY

A Notice of Applicability (NOA) was issued on 7 December 2016 to Valley Naturals Composting, LLC. for the Valley Naturals Composting Facility for coverage under the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Composting Operations Order WQ 2015-0121-DWQ, adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board on 4 August 2015.

The NOA incorrectly listed the enrollee identification number for your facility. The correct enrollee identification number is **2015-0121-DWQ-R5F004**. Please use this number in all future correspondence regarding this facility.

We apologize for any inconvenience. If you have any questions, please contact Kristen Gomes at (559) 445-5108 or by email at kristen.gomes@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original signed by:

DANIEL L. CARLSON
Senior Engineering Geologist
PG No. 5379, CEG No. 1695, CHG No. 488

cc: Nadine Langley, SWRCB
Tulare County Department of Environmental Health, Tulare

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

7 December 2016

Blake Houston
Valley Naturals Composting, LLC
31821 Road 160
Visalia, CA 93292

Mary-Jane Kelch
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NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

WATER QUALITY ORDER 2015-0121-DWQ GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPOSTING OPERATIONS VALLEY NATURALS COMPOSTING, LLC TULARE COUNTY

On 14 November 2016, Valley Naturals Composting, LLC (hereafter Discharger) submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) and Technical Report for its composting facility (Facility) 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 filing fee was submitted separately on 11 November 2016. 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 the NOI and Technical Report as described in the attached Staff Memorandum which is a part of this NOA. Based on staff's review, the proposed Facility will meet the conditions of the General Order, and is hereby covered under General Order **2015-0121-DWQ-R5S002** as a **Tier I** composting operation. The Discharger must comply with all Tier I requirements of the General Order.

The filing fee for the 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 read 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:

1. A post-construction report must be submitted 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.

2. Prior to any facility expansion, a technical report with design information will have to be submitted 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 staff.
3. A revised NOI is required at least 90 days prior to:
 - o adding a new feedstock, additive, or amendment;
 - o changing material or construction specifications;
 - o changing a monitoring program; or
 - o 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 must be complied 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 2018**, and then annually by 1 April each year.

All reports and other correspondence must be converted to searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents that are less than 50 MB are to be emailed to: centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov. Documents that are 50 MB or larger are to be transferred to a portable data storage device and mailed to this office at the address provided on the cover page.

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:	Title 27 Unit
Discharger Name:	Valley Naturals Composting, LLC
Facility Name:	Valley Naturals Composting Facility
County:	Tulare
CIWQS Place ID:	829835

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the attached Staff Memorandum, please contact Kristen Gomes at (559) 445-5108 or kristen.gomes@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Clay L. Rodgers for:

PAMELA C. CREEDON
Executive Officer

Enclosures: Staff Memorandum

cc: Nadine Langley, State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento
Ken Bowers, Tulare County Environmental Health Dept.

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

TO: Daniel L. Carlson
Senior Engineering Geologist

Lonnie M. Wass
Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer

Clay L. Rodgers
Assistant Executive Officer

FROM: Kristen S. Gomes
Water Resource Control Engineer
PE No. 79025

DATE: 7 December 2016

APPLICABILITY OF COVERAGE UNDER STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD WATER QUALITY ORDER 2015-0121-DWQ, VALLEY NATURALS COMPOSTING FACILITY, TULARE COUNTY

REPORT OF WASTE DISCHARGE

On 14 November 2016, Valley Naturals Composting, LLC (hereafter Discharger) submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) and Technical Report for its proposed composting facility (Facility) 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 filing fee was submitted separately on 11 November 2016.

SITE CONDITIONS

The proposed Facility is located at 31821 Road 160, near the City of Visalia in Tulare County. The facility will occupy approximately 13 acres, which is leased from the property owner (Mary-Jane Kelch).

Based on Department of Water Resources (DWR) models, depth to groundwater at the Facility is approximately 125 feet below ground surface. Regional groundwater flow direction is generally towards the southwest while the groundwater flow direction beneath the Facility is west.

Precipitation data from the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo database for Irrigation and Training Center (Zone 12) were used to determine the average (16.51 inches), minimum (11.51 inches), and maximum (30.61 inches) annual precipitation. The average annual pan evaporation is 65.1 inches (Bakersfield station). The magnitude of the 25-year 24-hour design storm was estimated to be 2.87 inches. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Floodplain Map No. 06107C0645E, the facility is not located within a 100-year flood plain.

Land uses within one mile of the facility include agricultural land to the north and east, a commercial nursery to the south, and an unused parcel to the west. Water is supplied to the facility by an agricultural well located on-site. The well meets the 100-foot setback requirement. The closest surface water body is an irrigation ditch (Road 180 Ditch) located approximately 0.2 miles to the southwest. Both Elbow Creek (0.6 miles) and the St. Johns River (2.5 miles) are also located to the southwest of the Facility property.

USGS geologic maps and USDA soil maps were used to classify the geology and the soils of the Facility. The surface soils consist of layers of Crosscreek-Kai in the northeastern portion of the Facility and Flamen Loam in the southwestern portion of the Facility.

COMPOSTING OPERATIONS

The facility is permitted to receive 25,000 cubic yards per year, which is comprised solely of agricultural waste. Manure (up to 10 percent by volume) will be used as an additive, as allowed by the General Order. There are no other additives or amendments proposed for use in the composting process.

The facility will utilize the aerated windrow composting technique. Incoming agricultural waste will arrive at the facility in bulk. After processing, the material will be placed into open windrows where it will be monitored for temperature and moisture and be periodically turned. Once the curing phase is complete, the compost material will be screened and separated into fines and overs. The overs will be recycled back into the compost process.

Laboratory analytical results, which were included in the Technical Report, indicate that the percolation rate of the working surfaces ranges from 56 to 187 minutes per inch and the percolation rate for the pre-compacted soil beneath the proposed detention pond ranges from 23 to 33 minutes per inch, far exceeding the requirements of the General Order.

Valley Naturals is proposing to construct one 3.28 acre-foot stormwater basin with a 12-inch, compacted soil layer to help prevent percolation. The proposed basin is adequately sized for the 25-year, 24-hour storm event, which would generate approximately 2.87 acre-feet of runoff. Raised access roads will be constructed along the perimeter of the facility and will also work as berms to retain stormwater onsite.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

Valley Naturals will conduct a monitoring program as prescribed in the applicable portions of Attachment B of General Order Monitoring and Reporting requirements. Sections that apply are A.1., A.2., A.5., and B. 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, Valley Naturals 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 proposed Facility meets the requirements for a Tier I facility under the General Order.

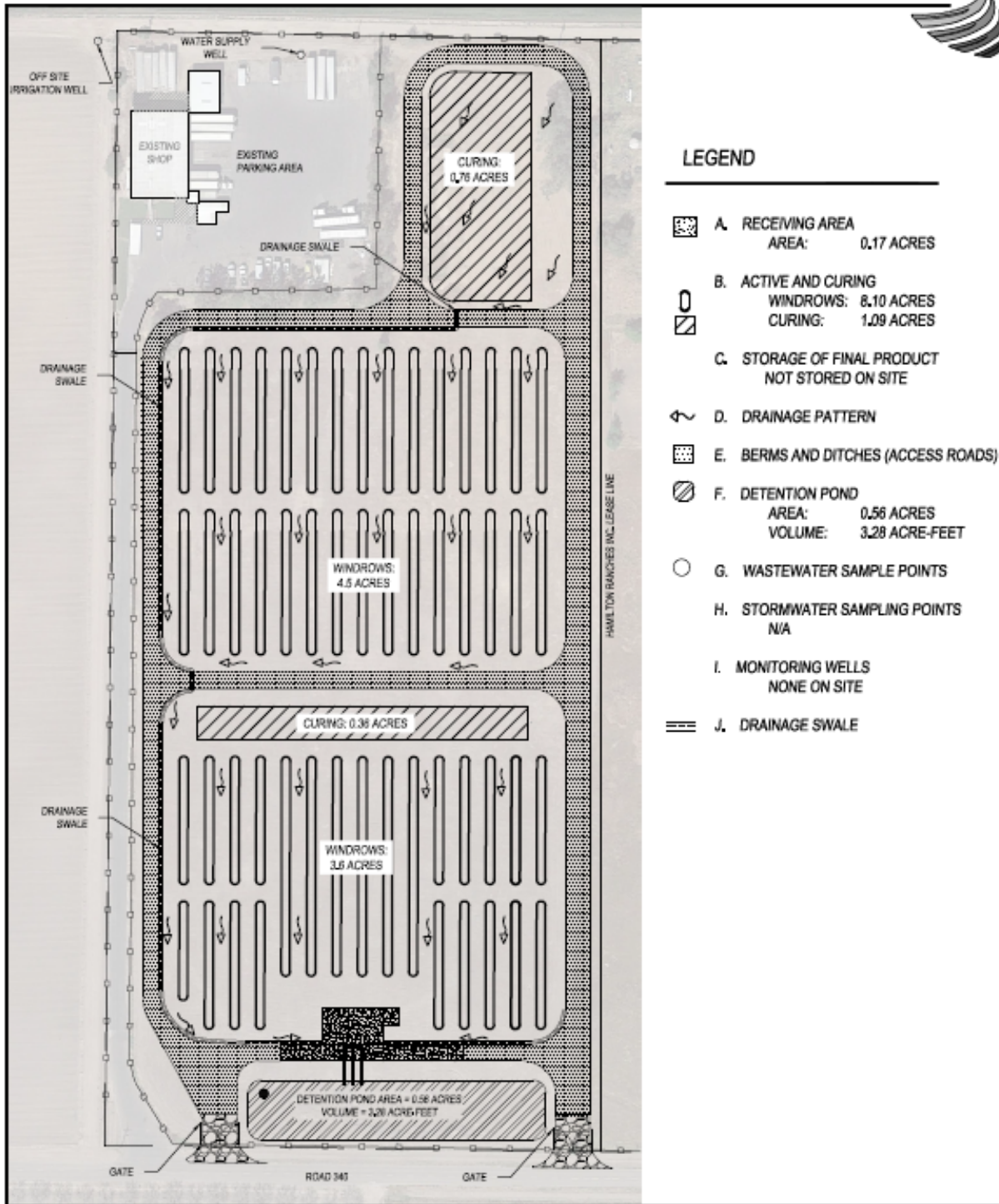
RECOMMENDATION

Based on staff review of the technical report and supporting documents, Valley Naturals will meet the requirements of the General Order. The Notice of Applicability should be issued and stay in effect as long as Valley Naturals implements all operations in a manner that complies with the requirements of the General Order.

Valley Naturals must comply with the following items:

1. 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.
2. Additionally, prior to any facility expansion, a technical report with design information will have to be submitted 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.
3. A revised NOI is required at least 90 days prior to:
 - o adding a new feedstock, additive, or amendment;
 - o changing material or construction specifications;
 - o changing a monitoring program; or
 - o changing an operation or activity not described in the approved NOI and technical report.

ATTACHMENT A



	324 S. SANTA FE, STE. A VISALIA, CA 93292 (559) 822-3052	SITE MAP VALLEY NATURALS COMPOSTING, LLC VISALIA, CALIFORNIA			16238
					ATTACHMENT B
					10/30/2016
					1" = 150'