PUBLIC WORKSHOP

February 13, 2015
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Draft Environmental Impact Report
and
General Order for Composting Operations
Introductions
Workshop Meeting Goals/Ageenda

- Objective – Listening Session
- Brief Overview of Proposed General Order (handout)
- Brief Overview of EIR
- Timeline – Next Steps
- Contact Information to submit comments
Why a General Order?

- Protect water quality by adopting requirements that are consistent with the Water Code
- Create statewide regulatory consistency with regards to design, construction, operation, and maintenance to protect water quality
- Streamline permitting process
- Accommodate a range of organic materials anticipated for composting in support of the State’s diversion goal
Changes to the General Order Since May 2014 (Handout)

- Reduced Constituents of Concern Monitoring Requirements
- Added Monitoring Requirements for Biosolids
- Annual Fees are Based on
  - Threat to Water Quality and Complexity
• Agricultural Composting;
• Chipping and grinding facilities;
• Lot clearing by local governmental agencies (i.e., grubbing, tree trimming, etc.) for fire protection;
• Composting activities within a fully-enclosed vessel;
• Composting operations that receive, process, and store less than 500 cubic yards (cy) of allowable materials at any given time;
• Composting operations that receive, process, and store less than 5,000 cy per year of allowable Tier I or Tier II feedstocks, additives, and amendments, and implement management practices.
Tiers and Sitting Criteria

• Includes:
  • Two Tiers
    • Tier I - smaller facilities < 25,000 cubic yards
      • Siting criteria
      • Limited feedstock choices
    • Tier II - larger facilities ≥ 25,000 cubic yards
    • Siting criteria
      • Additional feedstock choices
      • Additional design requirements
Feedstocks

Tier I
• Agricultural materials
• Green materials
• Vegetative food materials
• Anaerobic digestate derived from allowable Tier I feedstocks
• A combination of the allowable Tier I feedstocks

Tier II
• Food materials (non-vegetative)
• Biosolids (Class A, B, and/or EQ)
• Manure
• Anaerobic digestate derived from allowable Tier II feedstocks
• A combination of allowable Tier I and Tier II feedstocks
Additives and Amendments

**Tier I**
- No more than 10% combined:
  - Fertilizing material at rates will be consumed or immobilized during composting
  - Manure
  - Anaerobic digestate (solid)
  - Other materials approved by the Regional Water Board

**Tier II**
- No more than 30% combined:
  - Fertilizing material at rates will be consumed or immobilized during composting
  - Liquid food material
  - Anaerobic digestate (solid)
  - Other materials approved by the Regional Water Board

✓ Use of biosolids as additive or amendment is prohibited in both Tier I and Tier II
Working Surfaces (Pad)  
(Tier II Only)

• Tier II facilities have working surfaces and drainage ditches must have a hydraulic conductivity of $1 \times 10^{-5}$ cm/s or less, and consist of one of the following:
  • Minimum one foot compacted soil thickness
  • Asphaltic concrete or Portland cement concrete;
  • An equivalent engineered alternative approved by the Regional Water Board.

• In lieu of meeting the hydraulic conductivity requirement for working surfaces and ditches, applicants may propose to implement a Groundwater Protection Monitoring Program.
Wastewater Handling Systems (Tier II Only)

- Ponds meet hydraulic conductivity of $1 \times 10^{-6}$ cm/s, and include a liner system:
  - 40-mil geomembrane, 60 mil HDPE underlain by 1 foot of compacted clay, geosynthetic clay liner over prepared base;
  - Portland cement concrete underlain by 40-mil geomembrane or 60-mil HDPE
  - Equivalent engineered alternative approved by the Regional Water Board
- Ponds constructed with pan lysimeter monitoring device under lowest point of the pond
- Tanks must be in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
Monitoring

• Constituents
  • Pond (quarterly)
  • Groundwater, if selected (quarterly)
  • Biosolids
    • Proof of compliance with ceiling concentrations of 40 CFR 503.13, Table 1, or
    • Use test results or test upon receipt
Brief Overview of Draft EIR

• Contents
  • Existing and New Composting Operations

• Impact Analysis
  • Approach
  • Economic Considerations
Contents of Draft EIR

- Executive Summary
- Introduction and Background
- Project Description
- Impact Analysis Approach
- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry
- Air Quality & GHG
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology, Soils, & Minerals
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology & Water Quality
- Land Use Planning and Recreation
- Noise
- Population & Housing
- Public Services, Utilities & Energy
- Transportation & Traffic
- Cumulative Impacts
- Growth Inducing Impacts
- Alternatives Analysis
- References
- Document Preparation
Impact Analysis Approach
Reasonably Foreseeable Compliance Responses

• Direct Impacts:
  • Construction impacts - site disturbance, expanding footprint, operational changes
    • Upgrading pads (construction)
    • Installing groundwater monitoring systems
  • Managing wastewater using:
    • Retention ponds (lined);
    • Storage Tanks;
  • Upgrading run-on/run-off control systems (construction)
Impact Analysis Approach
Economic Considerations

• Interviewed 8 operations
  • Capacity Range: 25,000 to 140,000 tons per year
  • Public, Private, Public/Private Partnerships
• Based on the economic consideration, exempted less than 5,000 cubic yards.
• Proposed Order should not jeopardize the economic viability of composting operations.
Timeline

- **2003:** Existing Composting waivers expired
- **2009-2012:** Development of a statewide General Order for Composting Operations
- **September 2012:** General Order and Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) released for public review
- **October 2012:** Due to comments on the IS/MND, the General Order and Is/MND were removed from the Board Agenda
- **July 2013:** Notice of Preparation (NOP) released
  - Formally kick off the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) process
- **January 13, 2015:** Draft EIR and General Order Released for Public Comment
Next Steps

• Written Comments
  • Due by March 2, 2015 at Noon

• Prepare Response to Comments
  • March – May 2015

• Present to the Board for Consideration
  • June 2015
Written Comments Due by Noon March 2, 2015

Please indicate on the transmittal subject line:

“Comment Letter – General Order for Composting Operations.”

Preferred: Electronic submittals shall be in pdf text format to the Clerk to the Board via e-mail at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov.

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