Scoping for the Draft General Waste Discharge Requirements for Composting Operations Environmental Impact Report

Cal EPA Building
Coastal Hearing Room
August 23, 2013

Send comments to:
commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov
By September 6, 2013
AGENDA

• Introductions
• Background
• Project Description

• CEQA Process
• Next Steps
• Questions/Comments
BACKGROUND

- **2003:** Existing waivers expired for Composting Operations
- **2009-2012:** Development of a statewide General Order for Composting to replace the expired waivers
- **September 2012:** General Order and Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) released for public review
- **October 2012:** Due to public comments on the IS/MND the General Order is pulled from Board Meeting
- **May 2013:** Preliminary draft conditions presented to stakeholders
- **July 2013:** Notice of Preparation (NOP) released to formally kick off the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) process
PROJECT DESCRIPTION –
DRAFT GENERAL ORDER FOR COMPOSTING OPERATIONS
GOALS/OBJECTIVES

• Protect the beneficial uses of waters of the state from discharges to land associated with composting operations

• Streamline water quality permitting for composting operations and create statewide consistency with water quality regulations related to composting operations

• Support California’s goal to recycle 75 Percent of our solid waste by 2020

• Coordinate with CalRecycle’s Title 14 Compostable Materials Handling regulations
COVERED ACTIVITIES – TWO TIERS

Tier I

- Capacity <25,000 yd³
- Siting Criteria for depth to groundwater and distance to surface water and drinking water supply wells
- Feedstock materials: agricultural, green, paper, vegetative food

Tier II

- Capacity ≥ 25,000 yd³ or < 25,000 yd³ not meeting Tier I siting criteria
- Feedstock materials: Tier I, food materials, biosolids, manure
SURFACES capable of preventing degradation of waters of the state; designed and constructed to prevent conditions that may cause contamination, pollution, or nuisance

Surfaces must be designed, constructed and maintained to prevent ponding; reliably transmit liquid, and to withstand damage from operations

Must manage all wastewater from a minimum 25-year annual total precipitation period (provide a Water and Wastewater Management Plan)

Drainage/Conveyance – sized for a minimum 25-year, 24-hour peak storm event; sloped and maintained to keep liquid flowing, and inspected and cleaned out every year
Pad and Drainage/Conveyance Design
• Hydraulic Conductivity – $1.0 \times 10^{-5}$ cm/sec
• In lieu of hydraulic conductivity requirement, applicant may propose a Groundwater Protection Monitoring Program that must be approved by the Executive Officer

Pond Design
• Meet hydraulic conductivity of $1.0 \times 10^{-6}$ cm/sec or less
• Must be constructed with a specified monitoring device or other approved engineered alternative
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT PROCESS
• Lead Agency: State Water Resources Control Board

• Programmatic analysis of impacts to the environment caused by the Draft General Order
  • Statewide analysis of physical impacts to the environment
  • Alternatives to the Draft General Order
  • Reasonable and feasible mitigation

• Comments on the scope and content of the EIR not the Draft General Order
AREAS OF ANALYSIS

• Aesthetics
• Agriculture and Forestry
• Air Quality
• Biological Resources
• Cultural Resources
• Geology and Soils
• Greenhouse Gas Emissions
• Hazards and Hazardous Materials

• Hydrology and Water Quality
• Land Use and Planning
• Mineral Resources
• Noise
• Population and Housing
• Public Services
• Transportation and Traffic
• Utilities and Service Systems
NEXT STEPS

• NOP comments due **September 6, 2013**

• Stakeholder and Agency coordination  ~2013 through project approval

• Draft EIR and Draft General Order released for public review  ~ *mid 2014*
  • Public Meeting

• Final EIR and Final General Order  ~ *late 2014*

• Board Certification of EIR/Adoption of General Order  ~ *early 2015*
Comment period extended to September 6, 2013