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State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Water Quality

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC WORKSHOP Regulation of Composting Facilities

Monday, August 17, 2009, 10 a.m.
Joe Serna, Jr. / Cal-EPA Building
Byron Sher Auditorium
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) staff will hold a joint public workshop to receive input on identifying potential water quality impacts from composting facilities and appropriate water quality protection measures. Both agencies are working collaboratively to identify potential solutions to ensure that mandates regarding both the diversion goals of Assembly Bill 939 (AB 939) and the water quality protection goals of the California Water Code (Water Code) are met.

A quorum of State Water Board and CIWMB members may be present at the workshop. No action will be taken by either the State Water Board or the CIWMB at the workshop.

The State Water Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Water Boards) are required to protect the quality and beneficial uses of the waters of the state. The Water Code requires that anyone who discharges waste that could affect waters of the state must submit a report of waste discharge (ROWD). The Water Boards may waive this report and subsequent waste discharges with conditions. Current practice is to issue individual waste discharge requirements (WDRs) for larger composting facilities. A conditional waiver for "green waste-only" composting facilities was in effect from 1994 until 2003, when a change in law required all waivers to be either renewed or replaced with WDRs. Currently, the Water Boards are considering development of a statewide waiver with substantive conditions that would address water quality protection at composting facilities that currently exist or may be constructed.

The Water Boards do not have the ability to waive requirements on discharges to surface waters subject to the federal Clean Water Act. For discharges to surface waters, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits may be required to address either stormwater or wastewater discharges.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

Staff expects the documents listed below to be available after July 16, 2009 on the State Water Board and CIWMB Web sites:

- Public Workshop Presentations (as they become available)

FORMAT OF WORKSHOP

Both the State Water Board and CIWMB staff would like to engage stakeholders in a discussion to meet the diversion goals as well as protect water quality. The following questions will guide the water quality discussion:

- What are the potential water quality impacts from composting facilities?
- What is the effect of different operational practices and feedstocks in addressing potential water quality impacts?
- How can potential water quality impacts be addressed?
- What water quality protection measures are appropriate?

The workshop will begin with opening remarks by Mr. Jonathan Bishop, Chief Deputy Director of the State Water Board, and Mr. Mark Leary, Executive Director of the CIWMB. Staff will provide information about the regulatory framework of each agency, including potential concepts for a statewide waiver to address water quality protection at composting facilities. The remainder of the workshop will be comprised of both formal presentations and informal comments by stakeholders and the general public.

Presentations should be provided prior to the beginning of the workshop. Additional comments may be made in writing by letter or email. It will be most useful if comments are received as soon as possible following the workshop. Presentations and/or written comments should be submitted by electronic submission to Roger Mitchell at rmitchell@waterboards.ca.gov. Staff plan to begin development of a draft statewide order (such as a conditional waiver of WDRs) for composting facilities during the Fall of 2009.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE WORKSHOP

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to Roger Mitchell at (916) 341-5746 or rmitchell@waterboards.ca.gov, Rick Moss at (916) 341-5462 or rmoss@waterboards.ca.gov and Jerry Berumen at (916) 341-6452 or gberumen@ciwmb.ca.gov. Presentations submitted prior to August 10, 2009 will be made available on the State Water Board and CIWMB Web sites. Updates regarding the joint public workshop and other activities related to water quality and composting facilities can be obtained through an email subscription at:



- http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml (check "Composting Operations")

and through information on the State Water Board and CIWMB Web sites, located at:

- http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/land_disposal/compost.shtml.
- <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/organics/water>

PARKING, ACCESSIBILITY, AND SECURITY

Information pertaining to the location, directions, and parking for the Joe Serna Jr./Cal-EPA Building in Sacramento can be viewed at <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPABldg/location.htm>. The Joe Serna Jr./Cal-EPA Building is accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations at the Joe Serna Jr./Cal-EPA Building are requested to contact Catherine Foreman, Office of Employee Assistance, at (916) 341-5881.

Due to enhanced security precautions at the Cal-EPA Headquarters Building, all visitors are required to register with security staff prior to attending any meeting. To sign in and receive a visitor's badge, visitors must go to the Visitor and Environmental Services Center, located just inside and to the left of the building's public entrance.

July 15, 2009

Date

Jeanine Townsend

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board

