

**DRAFT**  
**MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**  
Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080(c)

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To: Office of Planning & Research State Clearinghouse P.O. Box 3044 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044	From: State Water Resources Control Board Division of Water Quality, 15 <sup>th</sup> floor P.O. Box 100 Sacramento, CA 95812-0100
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**PROJECT TITLE:**

General Waste Discharge Requirements for the Discharge of Wastes at Compost Management Units.

**PROJECT LOCATION:**

The scope of the *General Waste Discharge Requirements for the Discharge of Wastes at Compost Management Units* (hereinafter the Order) includes all compost management units (CMUs) located within the State of California. Additionally, this project covers CMUs throughout California that potentially meet the criteria in the Order.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The project is the adoption of the Order, which is applicable to any person responsible for discharging, or proposing to discharge waste to a CMU, or any person who owns and/or operates a CMU; or any person responsible for ensuring compliance with the maintenance and monitoring operations at the CMU (hereinafter the **Discharger**), whereby the Order establishes three tiered design specification and monitoring and maintenance requirements based of the following three considerations:

- Which of the feedstocks specified in the Order (agricultural materials, anaerobic digestate, biosolids (class EQ, A and/or B), food materials, green materials, manure, paper materials, and/or vegetative food materials) are discharged, or proposed to be discharged at the CMU;
- The total volume of the feedstocks, additives, amendments, and compost (active or stabilized) discharged (i.e., stored and treated), or proposed to be discharged at the CMU at any time; and
- The ability to conduct composting in a manner such that leachate will not percolate to groundwater, or runoff to surface waters.

Under the proposed project, the Order provides regulatory requirements for the protection of water quality, while harmonizing with the regulatory requirements for

composting operations, promulgated by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), under the California Code of Regulations, title 14, beginning with section 17850.

**DETERMINATION:**

The State Water Resources Control Board has determined that the above-described project will have a less than significant effect on the environment for the reasons specified in the attached Initial Study prepared for this project.

Contact Person: Roger Mitchell	Telephone: (858) 467-2724 Email: <a href="mailto:rmitchell@waterboards.ca.gov">rmitchell@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
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Adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on October 16, 2012.

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Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board