

State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPOSTING OPERATIONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will be the Lead Agency for the subject project. The State Water Board has determined that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared for this project. We are requesting your comments regarding the scope and content of the EIR. In addition to providing public comments by mail and e-mail, agencies and the public will have the opportunity to provide input during California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping. Scoping meeting details are provided on page two of this notice.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

To protect ground and surface water quality, the State Water Board proposes to adopt general waste discharge requirements that would provide coverage for composting operations in the State of California for use by the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Board). It would be at the discretion of each Regional Water Board whether to apply the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Composting Operations (Order) to facilities in their region. The Order would apply to all areas used for the receipt, processing, and storage for the conversion of certain eligible organic materials into a compost product. The Order will include conditions that would address appropriate water quality protection measures at existing and proposed composting operations that seek coverage under the Order. The construction of new composting operations and the expansion of existing composting operations would be regulated by local land use authorities; this Order would not permit the actual construction of any new facilities or the expansion of existing facilities.

“Tentative Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for the Discharge of Wastes at Compost Management Units” along with a Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) were previously drafted and circulated for public review in 2012, but were not adopted. The State Water Board is substantially modifying the Order and will prepare a programmatic EIR and new Order documentation. Documents associated with this project are available on the State Water Board's Web site at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/compost/index.shtml#news

The current working concepts for the Order include requirements for enrollment into two tiers based upon total facility capacity, depth to groundwater, distance to surface water, and distance to the nearest drinking water supply well. The Order would include pad, pond, drainage, conveyance, berm, and storm water/wastewater requirements specific to each tier to protect water quality. Monitoring and Reporting Requirements would also be included. Specific requirements contemplated in the current working concepts are also available on the State Water Board's Web site at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/compost/docs/0513hdout_so4cf.pdf

The purpose of the programmatic EIR is to analyze the potential impacts associated with the proposed project, and to evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives that would avoid or lessen any of the significant impacts that may be identified for the project. Probable environmental effects associated with this proposed project, which will be addressed in detail in the EIR are: air quality, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hydrology and water quality, and transportation and traffic.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Interested persons are encouraged to submit their written comments electronically. Comment letters can be submitted by e-mail to commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov (if less than 15 megabytes in total size) or by fax at (916) 341-5620 with the subject "**Comment Letter – CEQA - Composting General Order NOP**" Written comments also may be delivered via mail to:

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

or hand-delivered to the following address:

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Pursuant to the Public Resources Code, Section 21080.4 and CEQA Guidelines, Section 15082, comments should be limited to environmental concerns related to this project, and must be submitted within 30 days of receiving this notice. E-mail comments are preferred. The comment period begins on Wednesday, July 24, 2013. The deadline for submitting comments is **Friday, August 23, 2013 by 12:00 noon.**

NOTICE OF CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT SCOPING MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Board will hold a public scoping meeting for the proposed project. At the scoping meeting, the project description will be reviewed and input from agencies and the public will be solicited on specific topics that they feel should be discussed in the environmental analysis. Although a quorum of the State Water Board may be present, this is not a hearing, and the State Water Board will not hear any items nor take any action during the meeting. The location and time of the public meeting are provided below:

<p>A scoping meeting will be held at the following location and time:</p> <p>Joe Serna Jr.-Cal/EPA Headquarters Building Coastal Hearing Room 1001 I Street, 2nd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814</p>	<p>August 23, 2013 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.</p>
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This meeting will be simultaneously broadcast over the Web. The Webcast can be accessed by going to <http://www.calepa.gov> broadcast and clicking on the video or audio link for "Compost General Order Scoping Meeting." To comment, please send an e-mail to composting@waterboards.ca.gov and begin the subject line with **Composting EIR 8-23.**

PARKING, SECURITY, AND ACCESSIBILITY

A parking garage is located across from the Joe Serna Jr.-Cal/EPA building with entrances on 10th and 11th Streets between "I" and "J" Streets. Metered parking spaces are also available in the vicinity of the building. For a map, refer to the State Water Board Web site:

<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPAbldg/location.htm>

Please note: All visitors to the Cal/EPA Building are required to sign in and receive a badge at the Visitor Services Center located inside the main entrance (10th Street entrance). Valid picture identification may be required. Please allow up to 15 minutes for receiving clearance prior to the scoping meeting.


The Cal/EPA building is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact the Office of Employee Assistance, at (916) 341-5881 at least five working days prior to the meeting. Persons with hearing or speech impairments can contact us by using the California Relay Service Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD). TDD is reachable only from phones equipped with a TDD device. HEARING IMPAIRED RELAY SERVICE: TDD to Voice (800) 735-2929, Voice to TDD (800) 735-2922.

QUESTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

General questions concerning this notice may be directed to Shelly Amrhein at (916) 341-5775 or e-mail Shelly.Amrhein@waterboards.ca.gov.

To save paper, the State Water Board strongly encourages interested persons to subscribe to receive information my e-mail. If you would like to receive future announcements about the Order by e-mail, please subscribe to the State Water Board's e-mail list for "Composting Operations" at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/e-mail_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml#quality

Date July 19, 2013



Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board