

## State Water Resources Control Board

### NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

#### SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR AMENDMENT OF GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPOSTING OPERATIONS

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

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The State Water Board proposes to amend General Waste Discharge Requirements for Composting Operations, [Order WQ-2015-0121-DWQ](#) (General Order). The General Order includes requirements to protect water quality from composting activities while streamlining the permitting process. The General Order applies to commercial and municipal facilities that aerobically compost materials such as green waste, manure, anaerobic digestate, biosolids, food scraps, and scrap paper products. Eligible composting operations are classified into two tiers designed to reduce the threat to water quality. The tiers are based on the amount and type of feedstocks composted and site conditions such as depth to groundwater, percolation rate, and proximity to surface water and drinking water supply wells. Tier II specifications are designed to be more protective of water quality than Tier I specifications.

Currently, manure as a feedstock is only allowed at Tier II facilities. The State Water Board proposes to amend the General Order to allow herbivore manure (as defined) to be used as a feedstock at Tier I facilities where groundwater monitoring wells are installed and a groundwater protection monitoring plan is implemented.

The State Water Board also proposes to amend the General Order by expanding the Agricultural Composting exemption to include non-agricultural sites, allow the composting of both on-site and off-site materials, and increase the export limit. The resulting compost would be returned to the land owned by the same owner of the composting operation and up to 5,000 cubic yards can be exported (sold or given away) annually to be consistent with the small-volume conditional exemption.

Documents associated with the General Order are available on the State Water Board's Web site at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/compost/index.shtml#news](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/compost/index.shtml#news)

The purpose of the SEIR is to analyze the potential impacts associated with the proposed amendment and to evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives that would avoid or lessen any of the significant impacts that may be identified for the amendment. Probable environmental effects associated with the proposed amendment, which will be addressed in detail in the SEIR, are hydrology and water quality. The State Water Board does not anticipate that the proposed amendment will have any other environmental effects beyond those previously identified in the original Environmental Impact Report prepared for the General Order.

#### **WRITTEN COMMENTS**

Interested persons are encouraged to submit written comments electronically. Comment letters can be submitted by e-mail to [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov) (if less than 15 megabytes in total size) or by fax at (916) 341-5620. E-mail comments are preferred. The subject line should include the phrase "**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. The comment period begins on Monday, May 13, 2019. The deadline for submitting comments is **Friday, June 14, 2019 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 amendment. 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:

A scoping meeting will be held at the following location and time:

**May 29, 2019, - 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
Joe Serna Jr.-CalEPA Headquarters Building  
Training Room 2  
1001 I Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**PARKING, SECURITY, AND ACCESSIBILITY**

A parking garage is located across from the Joe Serna Jr.-CalEPA 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:

<https://calepa.ca.gov/headquarters-sacramento/location/>

Please note: All visitors to the CalEPA 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 CalEPA building is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to call (916) 341-5261 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 Frank Roddy at (916) 341-5379 or e-mail [Frank.Roddy@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Frank.Roddy@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:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/compost/index.html#news](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/compost/index.html#news)

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Date      May 13, 2019

  
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Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board