



***NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF
RECIRCULATED DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND PUBLIC
HEARING***

Project Title: SCWMA Compost Facility

Project Applicant: Sonoma County Waste Management Agency

Date: October 4, 2012

The Sonoma County Waste Management Agency (SCWMA), as the lead agency under the California Environmental Protection Act (CEQA), has prepared a Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) for the SCWMA Compost Facility. This RDEIR addresses an increase in the amount of material processed at the Central Site Alternative from 110,000 tons per year (analyzed in the “2011 Draft EIR) to 200,000 tons per year (analyzed in this Recirculated Draft EIR). To assure that all the resource areas are appropriately analyzed, all the resource areas for the Central Site Alternative are reviewed in this RDEIR for impacts related to the increased capacity and operational changes. As to the increased throughput, recirculation of the entire 2011 Draft EIR is not required because other sites (Sites 5A and 40) were already analyzed for 200,000 tons per year.

The Central Site Alternative would include a compost facility with a pad area of approximately 22 acres that would require initial grading and disturbance of approximately 34 acres on the 400-acre Central Disposal Site property, located approximately 1.5 miles southwest of the City of Cotati, off of Mecham Road. After additional review of the site design and other aerated static pile (ASP) composting processes (e.g., covered aerated static piles), it was determined that the throughput goal of 200,000 tons per year could be reached by using cutting edge technologies such as the use of cement push walls, special covers, positive air pressure, and oxygen and temperature gauges connected to a computer system that manage the air pressure and allow for additional tons of materials to be composted on less space than with traditional windrow or other ASP composting processes.

The objectives for the proposed project are the relocation of the SCWMA’s composting operations from its current location (on top of an area that has previously been landfilled) at the County’s Central Disposal Site; the establishment of a permanent composting facility in Sonoma County with sufficient capacity for current and future quantities; and to assist jurisdictions within SCWMA’s service area in meeting the goals and objectives for waste diversion as set forth in the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939).

Significant adverse environmental impacts

The following significant adverse impacts associated with the Central Site Alternative would be unavoidable, even with the implementation of the mitigation measures identified in this RDEIR:

Central Site Alternative

- Impact 28.2 - The Central Site Alternative could conflict with the Sonoma County General Plan or Zoning Ordinance. In most cases, the alternative would not conflict with the General Plan or Zoning Ordinance, however, as identified in Impact 29.2, the Central Site Alternative could expose persons to or generate noise levels in excess of standards in the General Plan.
- Impact 29.2 - Operation of the Central Site Alternative composting facility could expose persons to or generate noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plans or noise ordinances, or applicable standards of other agencies.
- Impact 31.5 - Long-term cumulative traffic volumes from this alternative would have a significant impact to traffic delays at the Gravenstein Highway (SR 116) / Stony Point Road intersection. Mitigation Measure 31.5 would reduce the impact to less than significant. However, if implementation of Mitigation Measure 31.5 is not approved by Caltrans (the jurisdiction responsible for SR 116), the impact would be Significant and Unavoidable.

RDEIR Availability, Commenting Procedures, and Meeting on RDEIR

The RDEIR is available for a 45-day public comment period from October 4, 2012 through November 19, 2012. Copies of the RDEIR are available to the public for review or purchase at the SCWMA office in Santa Rosa (2300 County Center Drive, Suite B100, Santa Rosa, CA 95403) and available for review at local libraries throughout the County. Electronic copies of the RDEIR and also the previous December 2011 Draft EIR are available online at:

<http://www.recyclenow.org/agency/reports.asp>

The public may present comments and concerns regarding the adequacy of the RDEIR. Comments may be submitted in writing to:

Mr. Patrick Carter, Department Analyst
Sonoma County Waste Management Agency
2300 County Center Drive, Suite B100
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Fax: (707) 565-3701
patrick.carter@sonoma-county.org

Please be sure to include your name, address, and telephone number in your correspondence. Written comments on the RDEIR must be postmarked or received by fax or e-mail no later than **4:00 pm, November 19, 2012**.

The SCWMA will also hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, October 24, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in the Ray Miller Community Center – Cotati Room, 216 East School Street, Cotati, CA 94931**. This hearing will allow public comment on the RDEIR for the proposed Central Site Alternative. Comments received during the comment period, including the public hearing, will be considered by the SCWMA during the preparation of the Final EIR.