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Executive Director

March 3, 2010

Mark DeBie, Division Chief
Waste Compliance and Mitigation Program,
Permitting and LEA Support Division
CalRecycle
1001 I Street, MS 10A-15
P.O. Box 4025
Sacramento, CA 95812-4025

Re: Comments on Compostable Material Agriculture Issues

Dear Mr. DeBie:

The Association of Compost Producers (Association), is a non-profit association of public and private organizations dedicated to building healthy soil, by increasing the quality, value and amount of compost being used in California.. It is our Associations core mission to work ongoing with CalRecycle, CDFA, Air Boards, Water Boards and local agencies and jurisdictions to address issues affecting the use of compostable materials in agriculture, landscape and environmental enhancement applications.

With respect to CalRecycle staff and stakeholder concerns presented at the February 8, 2010 Waste Compliance and Mitigation Program's monthly meeting, our association is providing comments on Strategic Directive 8.3 and the two white papers: "Farm and Ranch Composting Compostable Material Storage Volume Limitations", and the "Agricultural Land Application of Compostable Materials".

On February 25, 2010, CDFA held a meeting for stakeholders on the Asian Citrus Psyllid quarantine affecting the green waste industry in Southern California. At that meeting, our Association, along with a number of stakeholders urged the CDFA staff and CalRecycle staff to work together with the organics industry to develop integrated protocols, regulations, and quarantine orders to manage the collection, transport, processing, storage and use of green waste in agriculture for beneficial uses.

Based on these recent meetings, as well as meetings with you last year on agricultural, food waste and other issues affecting the compost industry, our Association leadership recommends that we address the following issues with CalRecycle, and CDFA.

We would like to possibly work via some form of an "Agriculture Compost Working Group", starting right away, to address:

1. **Asian Citrus Psyllid Compliance Agreement Development:** There is an *urgent need* to convene a working group to collaborate with both CDFA staff and CalRecycle staff, in a coordinated and cooperative manner, along with other green residuals industry stakeholders, to address both the Asian Citrus Psyllid quarantine program implementation and the revisions to the Title 14 regulations brought about by Strategic Directive 8.3.
2. **Stabilized Compost Exclusion Provisions:**
 - a. **Storage Definition:** We agree with the CalRecycle staff that the Title 14 definition of "stabilized compost" is a good starting point for developing informal draft considerations to exclude this activity from regulatory requirements for uses in agriculture. Further, we think that *CalRecycle should initiate informal rulemaking to add a new excluded activity for seasonal storage of "stabilized compost"* at compost operations if specific criteria or best management practices are defined and met.
 - b. **Storage Limit Quantities:** We also recommend that the CalRecycle staff initiate, as part of this workgroup discussion, a consideration of excluding "stable compost" from the calculation of the limit of 12,500 cubic yards for regulatory thresholds for all green material composting operations and agricultural material composting operations if specific criteria and/or best management practices are met.

As you are aware, our Association and staff members have been active participants with CalRecycle in developing regulations and compost market development programs that meet the goals and needs of the compost, and broader organics recycling industry, in California. We would like to continue this relationship and therefore would like to actively participate, as a working group member, in key issues affecting the development of robust and sustainable compost markets in California.

Sincerely,
Dan



Dan Noble
Executive Director

cc: Association of Compost Producer members
Margo Reid-Brown, CalRecycle
Mark Leary, CalRecycle
Ted Rauh, CalRecycle
Ken Decio, CalRecycle
Courtney Albrecht, CDFA
Amber Morris, CDFA