

NOTICE OF INFORMAL STAFF WORKSHOPS

CONCEPTS FOR A STATEWIDE WAIVER OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS WITH CONDITIONS FOR COMPOSTING FACILITIES

Wednesday, August 31, 2011, 10 a.m.
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
Highgrove Conference Room
3737 Main Street
Riverside, California

Thursday, September 1, 2011, 10 a.m.
Joe Serna, Jr. / Cal-EPA Building
Conference Room 550
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that staff of the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will host two informal workshops to discuss proposed concepts for a draft waiver of waste discharge requirements with conditions for composting facilities. The topic is not the application of composted materials. A quorum of State Water Board members may be present at the workshops. No action will be taken by the State Water Board at the workshops.

The State Water Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Water Boards) are required to protect the quality and beneficial uses of the waters of the state. The discussion will focus on appropriate water quality protection measures in relationship with implementation of the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) Organics Roadmap.

The Water Code requires that anyone who discharges waste that could affect waters of the state must submit a report of waste discharge (ROWD). The Water Boards may waive this report and subsequent waste discharges with conditions. Current practice is to issue individual waste discharge requirements (WDRs) for larger composting facilities. A conditional waiver for “green waste-only” composting facilities was in effect from 1994 until 2003, when a change in law required all waivers to be either renewed or replaced with WDRs. Currently, the Water Boards are developing substantive conditions for a statewide waiver that would address appropriate water quality protection measures at composting facilities that currently exist or may be constructed.

The Water Boards do not have the ability to waive requirements on discharges to surface waters subject to the federal Clean Water Act. For discharges to surface waters, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits may be required to address either stormwater or wastewater discharges.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The documents listed below will be available, prior to the August 31st and September 1st workshops, on the State Water Board web site:

- Notice of Informal Staff Workshops –
August 31, 2011 and September 1, 2011
- Agenda for Informal Staff Workshops
- Draft Concepts for the Waiver of California Code of Regulations Title 27
Waste Discharge Requirements with Conditions for Composting Facilities

FORMAT OF WORKSHOP

The State Water Board staff, in coordination with CalRecycle, is hosting two informal staff workshops to discuss draft concepts for a draft waiver of waste discharge requirements for composting facilities. The topic is not application of composted materials. The workshops will begin with opening remarks and a brief presentation by Roger Mitchell from the State Water Board. His presentation will provide information about the regulatory framework of the agency and an overview of the draft concepts for a statewide waiver to address water quality protection at composting facilities. The remainder of the workshop will be available for stakeholder comments and general discussion.

Following these workshops, additional informal comments may be made in writing by letter or email. A focus group of stakeholders is being formed for continued informal input during September and October. Next steps will be staff preparation of a draft statewide waiver and documents to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act, formal public comment, and consideration of a draft statewide waiver for adoption by the State Water Resources Control Board at a public meeting in early summer 2012.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE WORKSHOP

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to Roger Mitchell at (858) 467-2724 or Composting@waterboards.ca.gov

Updates regarding these workshops and other activities related to water quality and composting facilities can be obtained through an email subscription at:

- http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml (check "Composting Operations")

and through information on the State Water Board web site, located at:

- http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/land_disposal/compost.shtml.

PARKING, ACCESSIBILITY, AND SECURITY

Information pertaining to the location, directions, and parking for the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board in Riverside can be viewed at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/about_us/office_location_map.shtml. Any person who has a disability and requires reasonable accommodation to participate in this informal public meeting should contact Felipa Carrillo at fcarrillo@waterboards.ca.gov, or at (951)782-3285, no later than ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

Information pertaining to the location, directions, and parking for the Joe Serna Jr./Cal-EPA Building in Sacramento can be viewed at <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPABldg/location.htm>. The Joe Serna Jr./Cal-EPA Building is accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations at the Joe Serna Jr./Cal-EPA Building are requested to contact Catherine Foreman, Office of Employee Assistance, at (916) 341-5881.

Due to enhanced security precautions at the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board and Cal-EPA Headquarters Building, all visitors are required to register with security staff prior to attending any meeting.