

Regulatory Summary

for Organics Recycling Facilities in Unincorporated San Diego County

Updated 10.13.16

This document lists regulations at the County and State level that apply generally to organics recycling facilities in unincorporated areas within the County of San Diego. It is intended only for informational purposes and awareness of regulations. For additional information and to ask questions about a specific proposed recycling operation, please consult with the agency contacts provided.

Regulations included in this document:

[Composting Facilities - CalRecycle Regulations and Permit Tiers](#)

[In-Vessel Digestion Facilities - CalRecycle Regulations and Permit Tiers](#)

[Waste Discharge Requirements for Compost Facilities](#)

[Air Quality Construction and Operation Permits](#)

[Operational Fire Permit for Compost and Mulch Operations](#)

[County of San Diego Zoning Ordinance - Composting Regulations](#)



Regulatory Summary for Organics Recycling Facilities in Unincorporated San Diego County

Composting Facilities - CalRecycle Regulations and Permit Tiers

(Resource: [CalRecycle Tier Chart](#))

Permit Tier/ Activity	Additional Points/ Clarification
Excluded	
Agricultural material derived from an agricultural site and returned to the same site or agricultural site owned or leased by the owner, parent, or subsidiary ($\leq 1,000 \text{ yd}^3$ given away or sold annually)	“Agricultural Material” means waste material of plant or animal origin, which results directly from the conduct of agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture, aquaculture, vermiculture, viticulture and similar activities undertaken for the production of food or fiber for human or animal consumption or use, which is separated at the point of generation, and which contains no other solid waste... Material that is defined as “food material” or “vegetative food material” is not agricultural material. Agricultural material includes, but is not limited to, manures, orchard and vineyard prunings, grape pomace, and crop residues.
Vermicomposting and Mushroom Farming (Note: The handling of compostable materials used as growth medium is not excluded)	Pre-composting of material would be subject to composting regulations if it is handled in a manner that allows the material to reach 122 degrees Fahrenheit Compostable material when not being used as a growth medium is subject to the Transfer/Processing Operations and Facilities Regulatory Requirements.
New In-Vessel Digester Regulations. (<100 yd ³)	See In-Vessel Digester Regulations (below)
Composting green material, agricultural material, food material, and vegetative food material, alone or in combination, is an excluded activity if the total amount of feedstock and compost on-site at any one time does not exceed 100 cubic yards and 750 square feet. [Note: Persons handling compostable material under the above exclusion are obligated to obtain all permits, licenses, or other clearances that may be required by other regulatory agencies including, but not limited to local health entities and local land use authorities.]	This is a new exemption effective January 1, 2016 that consolidates and replaces formerly excluded activities. This exemption does not require that material be generated from onsite and compost used onsite.
Beneficial use	New regulations effective January 1, 2016 include specifications for direct land application. The final deposition of compostable material and/or digestate spread on any land, including land zoned only for agricultural uses, under the following conditions: 1. On and after January 1, 2018, the compostable material and/or digestate does not contain more than 0.5% by dry weight of physical contaminants greater than 4 millimeters (no more than 20% by dry weight of this 0.5% shall be film plastic greater than 4 millimeters) at the time of land application; 2. The compostable material and/or digestate meets the maximum metal concentrations, at the time of land application; 3. The compostable material and/or digestate meets the pathogen density limits, at the time of land application; and 4. a. On land not zoned only for agricultural uses, the compostable material and/or

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Composting Facilities - CalRecycle Regulations and Permit Tiers

(Resource: [CalRecycle Tier Chart](#))

Permit Tier/ Activity	Additional Points/ Clarification
	<p>digestate is not applied more frequently than once during a 12 month period, and, at the time of the land application, the compostable material and/or digestate shall not exceed 12 inches in total, accumulated depth on the land surface. The EA, in consultation with the Regional Water Quality Control Board, may approve alternative application frequencies and depths, if the EA after such consultation determines that the alternatives will not adversely affect public health and safety or the environment.</p> <p>b. On land zoned only for agricultural uses, the compostable material and/or digestate is not applied more frequently than three times during a 12 month period, and, at the time of the land application, the compostable material and/or digestate shall not exceed 12 inches in total, accumulated depth on the land surface. The EA, in consultation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture to determine if the land application is agronomically beneficial and with the Regional Water Quality Control Board regarding water quality, may approve alternative frequencies and depths, if the EA after such consultation determines that the alternative will not adversely affect public health and safety or the environment. The Department shall coordinate all EA requests for consultation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture.</p> <p>Refer to CalRecycle Title 14, Division 7, Chapter 3.1, SS 17852 (24.5) for activities not subject to these requirements.</p>

EA Notification

<p>Agricultural Material Composting Operations (all)</p>	<p>If feedstock <u>is limited to agricultural material</u>, agricultural material composting operations may handle an unlimited quantity of agricultural material on the site and may sell or give away any or all compost they produce.</p> <p>Agricultural material composting operations whose <u>feedstock is both green material and agricultural material</u> are subject to the following requirements:</p> <p>Operations located on land that is zoned for agricultural uses that <u>sell or give away less than 1,000 cubic yards</u> of compost per year may handle an unlimited amount of agricultural material and green material on the site; provided, however, the EA may limit the amount of green material feedstock on-site to 12,500 cubic yards upon making a written finding that handling the excess material may pose a risk to public health and safety or the environment.</p> <p>Operations located on land that is not zoned for agricultural uses and operations that <u>sell or give away 1,000 cubic yards or more</u> of compost per year may handle an unlimited amount of agricultural material, but may not stockpile more than 12,500 cubic yards of green material feedstock on the site at any time.</p>
<p>Green Material Composting Operations</p>	<p>A green material composting operation may have no more than 12,500 cubic yards of feedstock, chipped and ground material, amendments, additives, active compost, and stabilized compost on-site at any one time.</p> <p>“Green Material” means any plant material except food material and vegetative food material that is separated at the point of generation, contains no greater than 1.0 of percent physical contaminants by dry weight. Green material includes, but is not limited to, tree and yard trimmings, untreated wood wastes, natural fiber products, wood waste from silviculture and manufacturing, and construction and</p>

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Composting Facilities - CalRecycle Regulations and Permit Tiers

(Resource: [CalRecycle Tier Chart](#))

Permit Tier/ Activity	Additional Points/ Clarification
	demolition wood waste. Green material does not include food material, vegetative food material, biosolids, mixed material, material separated from commingled solid waste collection or processing, wood containing lead-based paint or wood preservative, or mixed construction and demolition debris. Agricultural material that meets this definition of “green material” may be handled as either agricultural material or green material.
Research Composting Operations (≤ 5,000 yd ³ onsite at any one time)	The EA Notification for a research composting operation shall last no more than 2 years. If the EA determines based on the research report that there are further research objectives to be met or data to be gathered, the EA may extend the research for a specified time period not to exceed two years.
Chipping and Grinding Operation (≤ 200 tons per day)	
Registration Permit- The facility shall be listed in the County’s Non-Disposal Facility Element (NDFE) prior to issuance of the permit.	
Vegetative Food Material Composting Facilities (≤ 12,500 yd ³)	<p>This is a new facility type as of January 1, 2016. A vegetative food material composting facility may have up to 12,500 cubic yards of feedstock, chipped and ground material, amendments, additives, active compost, and stabilized compost on-site at any one time.</p> <p>“Vegetative Food Material” means that fraction of food material, defined above, that is a plant material and is separated from other food material and the municipal solid waste stream. Vegetative food material may be processed or cooked but must otherwise retain its essential natural character and no salts, preservatives, fats or oils, or adulterants shall have been added. Vegetative food material includes, but is not limited to, fruits and vegetables, edible flowers and plants, outdated and spoiled produce, and coffee grounds. Vegetative food material contains no greater than 1.0 percent of physical contaminants by dry weight, and meets the requirements of section 17868.5.”</p> <p>This is meant to provide compost operators an option to process “clean” vegetative food material without undergoing a Full Permit. The Registration Permit does not require review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).</p>
Chipping and Grinding Operation (200 - 500 tons per day)	
Full Permit- Any project requiring a Full Permit first requires CEQA review as part of project scoping process.	
Composting Facilities	Any food or mixed material composting not listed under Excluded Activities.
Green Material Composting Facilities (> 12,500 yd ³)	An operation or facility that composts green material, additives, and/or amendments. A green material composting operation or facility may also handle manure and paper products.

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Composting Facilities - CalRecycle Regulations and Permit Tiers

(Resource: [CalRecycle Tier Chart](#))

Permit Tier/ Activity	Additional Points/ Clarification
Vegetative Food Material Composting Facilities (> 12,500 yd ³)	This is a new facility type as of January 1, 2016. A vegetative food material composting facility that has more than 12,500 cubic yards of feedstock, chipped and ground material, amendments, additives, active compost, and stabilized compost on-site at any one time
Chipping and Grinding Operation (> 500 tons per day)	

Contact: [San Diego County Department of Environmental Health, Local Enforcement Agency](#)
Phone: 858-495-5910 or Email: DEHComments@sdcounty.ca.gov

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In-Vessel Digestion Facilities - CalRecycle Regulations and Permit Tiers

(Resource: [CalRecycle Tier Chart](#))

Permit Tier/ Activity	Additional Points/ Clarification
Excluded	
<p>Agricultural material derived from an agricultural site and returned to the same site or agricultural site owned or leased by the owner, parent, or subsidiary ($\leq 1,000 \text{ yd}^3$ given away or sold annually)</p> <p>Digestate that is not composted may not be given away or sold.</p>	
<p>In-vessel digestion activities with less than a total of 100 cubic yards of solid waste, feedstock, and digestate on-site are excluded.</p> <p>[Note: Persons handling solid waste under the above exclusion are obligated to obtain all permits, licenses, or other clearances that may be required by other regulatory agencies including, but not limited to local health entities and local land use authorities.]</p>	
EA Notification	
<p>Limited Volume Digestion Facility</p>	<p>An operation that receives less than an average of 15 tons (or 60 cubic yards) of solid waste per operating day but shall not exceed 105 tons (or 420 cubic yards) per week of solid waste for digestion in an in-vessel digester.</p>
<p>Research In-Vessel Digestion Operations</p>	<p>Similar to Compost Research Operations except that no digestion capacity is stated.</p>
<p>Dairy In-Vessel Operations</p>	<p>“Dairy In-vessel Digestion Operation” means a dairy that receives imported solid waste feedstock, for purposes of co-digestion, with manure in an in-vessel digester, in accordance with Waste Discharge Requirements issued by a Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Dairy In-vessel Digestion Operation may also co-digest agricultural material.</p>
<p>Distribution Center In-Vessel Operations</p>	<p>"Distribution Center In-vessel Digestion Operation" means a site that receives, for the purpose of digestion in an in-vessel digester, unsold products from retail stores to which the products were originally sent. All unsold products shall be collected and processed in covered, leak-proof containers, and remain in the custody of the owner at all times. All unsold products that are putrescible shall be refrigerated at the retail store and shall be maintained at a core temperature of 13 degrees Celsius (55 degrees Fahrenheit) or less during transport to the operation.</p>

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<p>Registration Permit- The facility shall be listed in the County’s Non-Disposal Facility Element (NDFE) prior to issuance of the permit.</p>	
<p>Medium Volume In-Vessel Digestion Facility</p>	<p>A facility that receives an average of between 15 tons (or 60 cubic yards) and or more but less than 100 tons of solid waste per operating day but shall not exceed 700 tons (or 2,800 cubic yards) per week of solid waste for digestion in an in-vessel digester.</p>
<p>Full Permit - Any project requiring a Full Permit first requires CEQA review as part of project scoping process.</p>	
<p>Large Volume In-Vessel Digestion Facility</p>	<p>A facility that receives an average greater than 100 tons of solid waste per operating day or greater than 700 tons (2,800 cubic yards) per week of solid waste for digestion in an in-vessel digester.</p>
<p>Digestate Handling Standards- All projects</p>	
<p>Digestate must be either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stored or processed on-site in a sealed container or sealed structure unless the EA approves an alternative handling method; or • incorporated in an on-site aerobic compost process. On-site aerobic composting of digestate is allowable only at large volume in-vessel digestion facilities that have obtained an In-vessel Digestion Facility Permit, or • used in a manner approved by local, state, and federal agencies having appropriate jurisdiction, including land application. 	<p>Digestion projects often utilize proprietary technologies. Some technologies incorporate aerobic digestion (i.e., in-vessel composting) whereas others employ anaerobic digestion or fermentation for biogas generation. Therefore CalRecycle developed a range of handling standards and projects will need to be developed in consultation with the LEA.</p> <p>For example, in-vessel composting (aerobic) projects that incorporate pathogen destruction would not necessarily be required to obtain a Full In-Vessel Digestion Facility Permit to handle/cure their digestate. Anaerobic digestion projects that incorporate an in-vessel composting step in their process also would not necessarily require a Full In-Vessel Digestion Facility Permit.</p>
<p>Contact: San Diego County Department of Environmental Health, Local Enforcement Agency Phone: 858-495-5910 or Email: DEHComments@sdcounty.ca.gov</p>	

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Waste Discharge Requirements for Compost Facilities

Excluded from Order¹

- a. Agricultural Composting;
- b. Chipping and grinding facilities and operations. This includes chipping and grinding facilities and operations at a composting facility if located outside of the composting operations area.
- c. Lot clearing by local governmental agencies (i.e., grubbing, tree trimming, etc.) for fire protection;
- d. Composting activities that are within a fully-enclosed vessel;
- e. Composting operations that receive, process, and store less than 500 cubic yards (cy) of allowable materials at any given time;
- f. Composting operations that receive, process, and store less than 5,000 cy per year of allowable Tier I or Tier II feedstocks, additives, and amendments, and implement the following management practices:
 - (1) Completely cover all materials during rain events to reduce the generation of wastewater; and
 - (2) Manage the application of water to reduce the generation of wastewater.

Requirement Type	Tier I	Tier II
Total Facility Capacity	< 25,000 cy (combination of Tier I allowable materials received, processed, and stored: feedstocks, amendments) and meets the siting criteria below.	≥ 25,000 cy (all allowable materials received, processed, and stored: feedstocks, amendments) or < 25,000 cy of Tier I allowable materials, which do not meet the Tier I siting criteria.
Depth to Groundwater	Dependent on Soil Percolation Rate as follows (minutes per inch - MPI using percolation test): < 1 MPI : 50 feet 1 MPI - 5 MPI: 20 feet > 5 MPI - 30 MPI: 8 feet > 30 MPI : 5 feet Note that verification is required as part of NOI	
Distance to Surface Water	> 100 feet	> 100 feet
Distance to nearest water supply well	> 100 feet	> 100 feet
Allowable Feedstocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agricultural materials - Green materials - Paper material - Vegetative food materials - Residentially co-collected food and green materials - 10% by volume approved additives (i.e., manure, fertilizing material, anaerobic digestate) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food materials (non-vegetative) - Biosolids (Class A, B, and/or EQ) - Manure - Anaerobic digestate derived from allowable Tier I and Tier II feedstocks - A combination of allowable Tier I and Tier II feedstocks - 30% by volume approved additives
Construction	Requires construction of pads, berms, wastewater handling structures (detention ponds, tanks) and drainage conveyance systems. Tier II facilities are required to meet more stringent specifications on engineered systems.	

[State Water Resources Control Board Regulation for Composting Regulations](#)

Contact: San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

Roger Mitchell, Phone: 619-521-5898 or Email: roger.mitchell@waterboards.ca.gov

¹ Excluded operations may be required to obtain other permits issued by the San Diego Water Board.
Updated 10.5.16

Air Quality Construction and Operation Permits

Existing Requirements

- Authority to Construct and Permit to Operate required for AD (biogas generating) facilities
- Permit required under stationary equipment rules for engines (>50 hp) associated with screens and grinders for processing compost material.

Future Potential Requirements

SDAPCD's planning staff is currently drafting an update of the RAQS to identify new feasible measures to further reduce volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions (as ozone precursors). The RAQS will likely include a measure to control VOC emissions from non-residential composting operations, as these facilities (and associated VOC emissions) are thought to be on the rise due to landfill diversion goals for compostable materials. After the RAQS update is workshopped and approved by the Board, the SDAPCD will develop a composting rule - possibly by late 2017 - to implement this measure in the RAQS update. Once a rule is adopted, permits would be required and the SDAPCD may refer to guidance from other California Air Districts on best available control technologies (BACT) for reduction of compost emissions including volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and ammonia.

Contact: [San Diego Air Pollution Control District](#)
 Angela M. Ortega, Phone: (858) 586-2753, or Email: Angela.Ortega@sdcounty.ca.gov

Operational Fire Permit for Compost and Mulch Operations

2014 Consolidated Fire Code

SEC. 96.1.105.6.19.1. GREENWASTE RECYCLING, MULCHING, COMPOSTING OPERATIONS AND STORAGE.

Section 105.6.19.1 is added to the California Fire Code to read:

Sec. 105.6.19.1 Greenwaste recycling, mulching, composting operations and storage. An operational permit is required for greenwaste recycling, mulching, composting operations and storage.

The 2017 Consolidated Fire Code will be going before the Board of Supervisors in January 2017 and the code section will be revised to Sec. 96.1.105.6.**20.1**.

Contact: [County of San Diego Fire Authority](#)
 Phone: (858) 974-5999 or Email: Fire@sdcounty.ca.gov

County of San Diego Zoning Ordinance – Composting Regulations

Definitions

Zoning

6900 MISCELLANEOUS GENERAL REGULATIONS

6912 COMMUNITY GARDENS

Community Garden:

An area of land used to grow and harvest food crops by individuals or collectively by members of a group, and may be arranged into multiple plots.

(Added by Ord. No. 10201 (N.S.) adopted 3-28-12)

Community Gardens are allowed in all zones where Row and Field Crops are permitted, subject to the following regulations:

- a. Hours of Operation. Hours of operation shall be limited to the hours between sunrise and sunset.
- b. Permitted structures. Accessory structures, such as storage sheds for tools and other supplies, greenhouses and/or an Agricultural Stand, may be allowed in a community garden pursuant to Section 6156.
- c. Parking. A minimum of 2 parking spaces shall be provided on the lot when there is no on-street parking allowed adjacent to the community garden property.
- d. Water Use. Wasting water is prohibited pursuant to County Code Section 86.725. Water efficient irrigation techniques such as drip irrigation and timers to control watering times are encouraged. All hoses shall be equipped with a trigger nozzle. Mulching of planted areas is encouraged to retain plant moisture.
- e. Composting. Composting may be performed onsite within a composting container subject to all of the following:
 - 1. Composted materials shall be only those materials generated onsite or contributed by active members of the community garden.
 - 2. Composting containers shall be located a minimum of three feet from property lines.
 - 3. Odors and/or fly-breeding shall not be greater than customarily found at a well-maintained residence.
- f. Organic Gardening. Organic gardening is strongly encouraged.
- g. Trash/Recycling Receptacles. Trash and recycling receptacles shall be provided onsite for the proper disposal of refuse. The receptacles shall be screened from adjacent properties by six-foot high solid fencing. Refuse shall be removed from the site regularly so that the receptacle area and the lot are kept free from litter.
- h. Sale of Produce and Plants. Sale of produce or plants raised on the site is allowed only from a permitted Agricultural Stand, subject to all provisions of 6156.q. Otherwise, on-site sales of produce, plants or any other items are prohibited.
- i. Prohibited plants. Planting illegal or invasive plants, as defined in County Code Section 86.701 et seq., shall be prohibited.

All other applicable codes and ordinances shall apply to Community Gardens, including but not limited to Groundwater Ordinance,

County of San Diego Zoning Ordinance – Composting Regulations	
Definitions	Zoning
	<p>Grading Ordinance and Noise Ordinance. Applicable permits from other departments or agencies may be required.</p> <p>(Added by Ord. No. 10204 (N.S.) adopted 3-28-12)</p>
1700 AGRICULTURAL USE TYPES	
<p><u>1730 ANIMAL WASTE PROCESSING:</u></p> <p>The Animal Waste Processing use type refers to the processing of animal waste and by-products, including but not limited to animal manure, animal bedding waste, and similar by-products of an animal raising agricultural operation, for use as a commercial fertilizer or soil amendment and including composting operations.</p> <p>The Animal Waste Processing use type does not include poultry manure management practices involving drying and disposal of manure produced on site or brought to a poultry ranch from another poultry ranch owned or operated by the same person(s), provided the receiving site is zoned with an animal regulations designation which allows an unlimited number of poultry. (Amended by Ord. No. 7817 (N.S.) adopted 9-26-90)</p>	<p>Major Use Permit in Zones: M58 High Impact Industrial, A72- General Agricultural, S92- General Rural</p>
6150 ACCESSORY USE REGULATIONS	
<p><u>6156 RESIDENTIAL AND AGRICULTURAL USE TYPES</u></p> <p>Vermiculture or vermicomposting (definition):</p> <p>A form of animal husbandry involving the raising of worms of the taxonomic phylum Annelida (segmented worms) and/or the use of said worms to convert organic matter into compost. (Added by Ord. No. 10006 (N.S.) adopted 9-16-09)</p>	<p>Subject to the restrictions and limitations specified, the following accessory buildings and uses shall be permitted in zones where Residential and Agricultural Use Types are permitted:</p> <p>s. Earthworms or Vermiculture. The raising of earthworms or the practice of vermiculture provided that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No sales are advertised or made on the premises unless permitted by the use regulations. 2. Odors and/or fly-breeding are not greater than customarily found at a well-maintained residence. 3. The vermiculture area shall utilize household or garden waste or materials that are produced on the site. Importing of waste or other materials from another property shall be prohibited. 4. The volume of raw or composted decomposable organic and bedding materials shall not exceed that which is reasonably necessary to the production of the worms raised on the site.

County of San Diego Zoning Ordinance – Composting Regulations

Definitions

Zoning

1513 RECYCLING PROCESSING FACILITY

The Recycling Processing Facility use type refers to establishments or places primarily engaged in processing recyclable materials for the purpose of resource recovery. Processing means the preparation of materials by one or more of the following means: baling, briquetting, compacting, flattening, grinding, crushing, mechanical sorting, shredding and cleaning. Recycling processing facilities include the following:

a. Recycling Processing Facility, Light: A light processing facility is limited to baling, briquetting, crushing, compacting, grinding, shredding and sorting of source separated recyclable materials and repairing of reusable products sufficient to qualify as a certified recycling facility. A light processing facility shall not shred, compact, or bale ferrous metals other than food and beverage containers.

b. Recycling Processing Facility, Heavy: Any facility, other than a light recycling processing facility or scrap operation for processing of recyclable materials.

c. Recycling Processing Facility, Wood and Green Materials: A facility devoted exclusively to grinding, shredding, splitting or chopping, (including sawing) of wood and/or green waste.

(Added by Ord. No. 8058 (N.S.) adopted 4-15-92)
 (Amended by Ord. No. 10035 (N.S.) adopted 1-27-10)
 (Amended by Ord. No. 10095 (N.S.) adopted 12-8-10)

Recycling Processing Facility, Heavy:

Permitted: In Zones C37- Heavy Commercial, C38- Service Commercial, C40- Rural Commercial, or M54- General Impact Industrial, M58- High Impact Industrial Use Regulation upon meeting the criteria for a light recycling processing facility;

Major Use Permit: Zones C30- Office-Professional, C31- Residential Office Professional, C32- Convenience Commercial, C34- General Commercial Residential, C35- General Commercial/Limited Residential, C36- General Commercial, C44- Freeway Commercial, C46- Medical Center, M50- Basic Industrial, M52- Limited Impact Industrial, M56- Mixed Industrial. The conditions of said Major Use Permit shall require compliance with the criteria for a light recycling processing facility.

Recycling Processing Facility, Wood and Green Materials:

1. A facility devoted exclusively to the processing (not including composting) of wood and green materials is considered a General Industrial Use Type, and as such, shall be conducted in accordance with the regulations applicable to said Use Type except that a **Wood and Green Materials Recycling Processing Facility may be permitted in an Agricultural or Special Purpose Use Regulation upon issuance of a Minor Use Permit.** The conditions of said Minor Use Permit shall require compliance with the criteria for a light recycling processing facility as set forth above in this section commencing at subsection a.2., except for the requirement that the operations be conducted entirely within an enclosed building; except for the requirements of subsection a.4 relating to size and scope of operation; subsection a.6. relating to storage within containers; and, subsection a. 10. relating to noise level limits. The conditions of the Minor Use Permit shall address the above-mentioned requirements as well as any others necessary in order to make the findings required for the granting of a Minor Use Permit. **Said Minor Use Permit may include composting of wood and/or green waste provided the conditions relating to composting are satisfactory to the Director of the Department of Public Works.**

(Added by Ord. No. 8058 (N.S.) adopted 4-15-92) (Amended by Ord. No. 9958 (N.S.) adopted 12-10-08) (Amended by Ord. No. 10095 (N.S.) adopted 12-8-10)

Minor Use Permit in Zones A70- Limited Agricultural, A72- General Agricultural, S80- Open Space, S82- Extractive, S86- Parking, S88- Specific Plan Area, S90- Holding Area, S92- General Rural, S94- Transportation & Utility Corridor

County of San Diego Zoning Ordinance – Composting Regulations

Definitions	Zoning
	<p>Permitted in Zones C37- Heavy Commercial, C40- Rural Commercial- Subject to Limitations (See Limitations on Permitted Uses #15)</p> <p>2980 LIMITATIONS ON PERMITTED USES "15" Performance Standards and Power. Subject to meeting the applicable provisions of the performance standards specified in Section 6300. Prior to the installation or operation of electric or other power sources in excess of 20 horsepower, the proposed use shall be reviewed pursuant to Section 6304 and the Director shall certify that the use complies with the applicable performance standards.</p> <p>Permitted in Zones M50- Basic Industrial, M52- Limited Impact Industrial, M54- General Impact Industrial, M56-Mixed Industrial, M58- High Impact Industrial</p> <p>Pursuant to Section 6975 of the Zoning Ordinance, a Recycling Processing Facility Use Type (as defined at Section 1513) is a permitted use in the specified zones when conducted in accordance with the following:</p> <p>a. Recycling Processing Facility, Light²</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In a Commercial or Industrial Zone upon meeting the criteria set forth in this section commencing at subsection a.2. below; 2. All operations shall be conducted entirely within an enclosed building except as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. In the C37, C38 and C40 Commercial Zones and the M54 and M58 Industrial Zones, a light recycling processing facility may be conducted outside of buildings if the property on which the facility is located does not abut a property zoned or planned for residential use. ii. Notwithstanding the Enclosure Regulations, in any other Commercial or Industrial Zone, a Minor Use Permit may be granted for an alternative type of enclosure such as a wall or view-obscuring fence not less than 8 feet in height and landscaped on all street frontages; 3. Power-driven processing shall be permitted, provided all requirements of the Performance Standards commencing at

² Blue text indicates limitations that may not apply to a Recycling Processing Facility, Wood and Green Materials. “[A] Wood and Green Materials Recycling Processing Facility may be permitted in an Agricultural or Special Purpose Use Regulation upon issuance of a Minor Use Permit. The conditions of said Minor Use Permit shall require compliance with the criteria for a light recycling processing facility as set forth above in this section commencing at subsection a.2., except for the requirement that the operations be conducted entirely within an enclosed building; except for the requirements of subsection a.4 relating to size and scope of operation; subsection a.6. relating to storage within containers; and, subsection a. 10. relating to noise level limits.”

County of San Diego Zoning Ordinance – Composting Regulations

Definitions	Zoning
	<p>Section 6300 are met;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. A light processing facility shall be no larger than 45,000 square feet and shall have no more than an average of 2 outbound truck shipments of material per day; 5. Setbacks and landscaping requirements shall be those required by the zone in which the facility is located; 6. All exterior storage of material shall be in sturdy containers or enclosures which are covered, secured, and maintained in good condition, or shall be baled or palletized. Storage containers for flammable material shall be constructed of non-flammable material. Oil storage must be in containers approved by the Local fire and/or Health Official. No storage, excluding truck trailers and overseas containers, shall be visible above the height of the fencing; 7. Site shall be maintained free of litter and any other undesirable materials, and shall be cleaned of loose debris on a daily basis and shall be secured from unauthorized entry and removal of materials when attendants are not present; 8. Space shall be provided on the site for the anticipated peak load of customers to circulate, park and deposit recyclable materials. If the facility is open to the public, space shall be provided for a minimum of 10 customers or the peak load, whichever is higher, except where the Director determines that allowing overflow traffic is compatible with surrounding businesses and public safety; 9. One parking space shall be provided for each commercial vehicle operated by the processing center. 10. Noise levels shall not exceed 60 dBA as measured at the property line of residentially zoned or occupied property, or otherwise shall not exceed the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70 dBA in any Commercial Zone (Except C31) 55 dBA in the C31 Zone 75 dBA in the M54 and M58 Zones; 11. If the facility is located within 500 feet of property zoned or planned for residential use, it shall not be in operation between 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. The facility shall be attended by on-site personnel during the hours the facility is open; 12. Any containers provided for after-hours donation of recyclable materials shall be at least 50 feet from any property zoned or occupied for residential use; shall be of sturdy, rustproof construction; shall have sufficient capacity to accommodate materials collected; and shall be secure from

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	<p>unauthorized entry or removal of materials;</p> <p>13. Donation areas shall be kept free of litter and any other undesirable material. The containers shall be clearly marked to identify the type of material that may be deposited. Facility shall display a notice stating that no material shall be left outside the recycling containers;</p> <p>14. Signs shall comply with the On-Premise Sign Regulations. In addition, facility shall be clearly marked with the name and phone number of the facility operator and the hours of operation;</p> <p>15. Air contaminants including but not limited to smoke, charred paper, dust, grime, carbon, noxious acids, fumes, gases, odors, or particulate matter, or any emissions that endanger human health, cause damage to vegetation or property or cause soiling, vibration or noise above levels allowed by the Performance Standards commencing at Section 6300, shall not be permitted.</p> <p>16. Incidental sale of products produced from recycled material is allowed on-site.</p>
<p>Update 85 (1/11) (Added by Ord. No. 8058 (N.S.) adopted 4-15-92)</p> <p>Wood and Green Waste Composting Facility: A facility where wood and/or green waste decompose in a controlled environment into compost, soil amendment or other products. A composting facility may employ mechanical equipment to turn the piles and provide aeration. Composting may be conducted within an enclosed building or in the open such as in windrow composting. Backyard composting by homeowners and composting of material generated by an agricultural operation for the purpose of mulching or soil amendment on property in the same ownership as that where composting takes place shall not be considered a Wood and Green Waste Composting Facility. The composting of municipal sewage sludge shall also not be considered a Wood and Green Waste Composting Facility even if such composting operation utilizes wood or green waste.</p>	

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