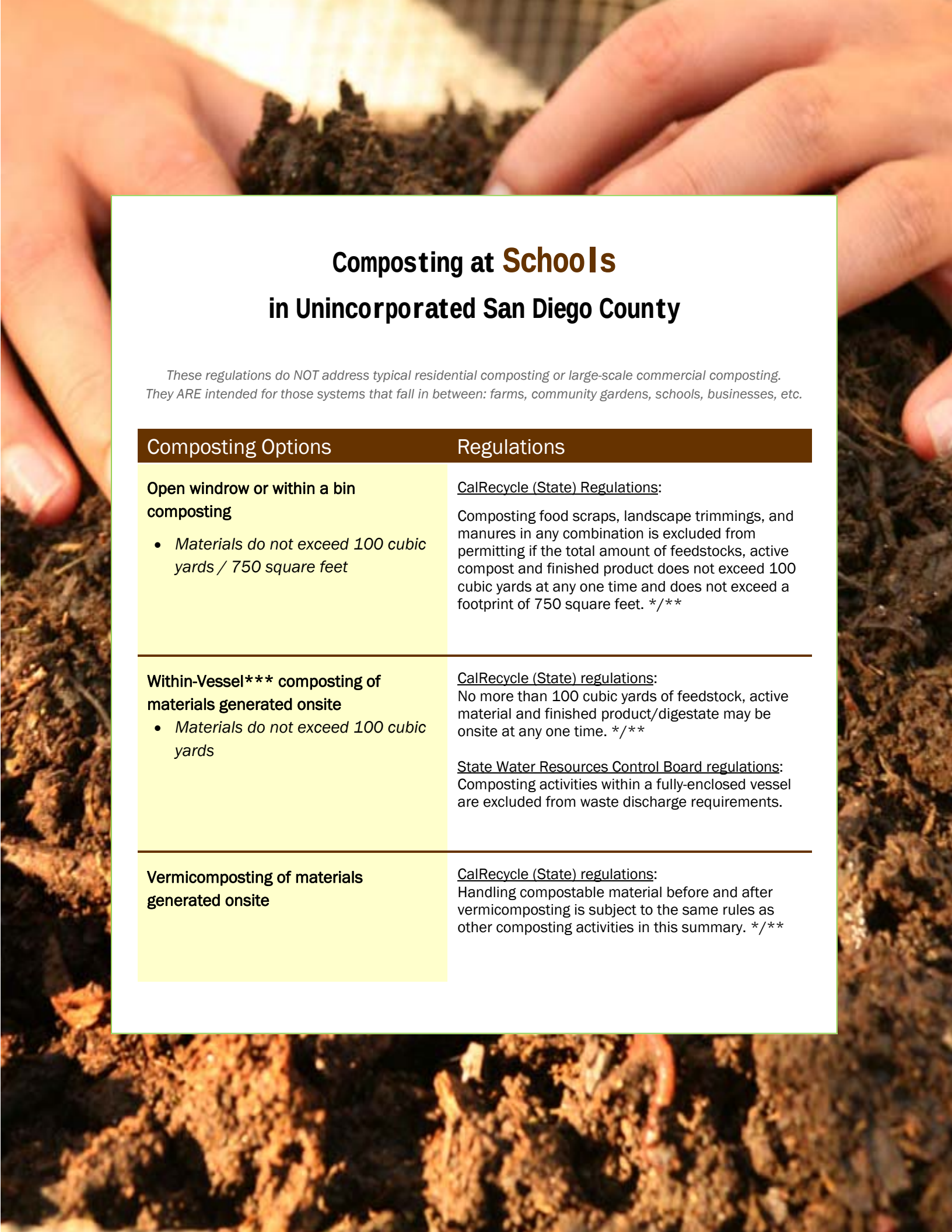

Composting at Schools
in Unincorporated San Diego County

These regulations do NOT address typical residential composting or large-scale commercial composting. They ARE intended for those systems that fall in between: farms, community gardens, schools, businesses, etc.

Composting Options	Regulations
Open windrow or within a bin composting • *Materials do not exceed 100 cubic yards / 750 square feet*	CalRecycle (State) Regulations: Composting food scraps, landscape trimmings, and manures in any combination is excluded from permitting if the total amount of feedstocks, active compost and finished product does not exceed 100 cubic yards at any one time and does not exceed a footprint of 750 square feet. */**
Within-Vessel* composting of materials generated onsite** • *Materials do not exceed 100 cubic yards*	CalRecycle (State) regulations: No more than 100 cubic yards of feedstock, active material and finished product/digestate may be onsite at any one time. */** State Water Resources Control Board regulations: Composting activities within a fully-enclosed vessel are excluded from waste discharge requirements.
Vermicomposting of materials generated onsite	CalRecycle (State) regulations: Handling compostable material before and after vermicomposting is subject to the same rules as other composting activities in this summary. */**

*** Excluded Activities, see:**

Title 14 California Code of Regulations, 17855 (a)(4)
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.

**** Composting Operations Standards, see:**

Title 14 California Code of Regulations, 17867 (a)(2)(3)
(2) All handling activities shall be conducted in a manner that minimizes odor impacts so as to not cause a nuisance.
(3) All handling activities shall be conducted in a manner that minimizes vectors, litter, hazards, nuisances, and noise impacts; and minimizes human contact with, inhalation, ingestion, and transportation of dust, particulates, and pathogenic organisms.

***** Within-Vessel Composting (also called in-vessel):**

CalRecycle defines within-vessel composting as "an aerobic process in which compostable material is enclosed in a drum, silo, bin, tunnel, reactor, or other container for the purpose of producing compost, maintained under uniform conditions of temperature and moisture where air-borne emissions are controlled."

Disclaimer:

This summary of regulations is intended as guidance for persons and organizations wishing to conduct small to mid-scale composting and these regulations do NOT address typical residential composting or large-scale commercial composting. They ARE intended for those systems that fall in between: farms, parks, community gardens, schools, businesses, etc.

It is not a comprehensive list of regulations. Other regulations may apply if a composting operation is of a larger scale, accepts compostable materials from offsite (bulking agent required to compost food scraps and other volatile materials generated onsite may be okay), or involves sales of compost. To ensure success, composting best management practices should always be followed.

If you are interested in a detailed list of regulations for all agencies and regulatory tiers, please ask a County Recycling representative.

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RECYCLING
IT'S IN OUR NATURE

HIDDEN RESOURCES
COMPOSTING • CONSULTING • ZERO WASTE
25 years of Resource Management

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FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION

June 9, 2016