

Best Management Practices Plan for Organic Materials Processing Operations

Property Location:

Project Address:

Assessor's Parcel # (APN):

Permit # / Record ID (if applicable):

Property Owner/Operator

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Date

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES PLAN PURPOSE

This Best Management Practices (BMP) Plan is a collection of practices, techniques, and measures that prevent or reduce potential impacts from composting operations by using the most effective and practicable means of achieving organic material composting. BMPs include, but are not limited to, siting elements, operational controls, locational and practice controls, and ongoing maintenance procedures that organic materials processing operators can adopt to help run a successful organic processing operation in compliance with applicable requirements of the County of San Diego's (County's) Zoning Ordinance and other local, State and Federal Regulations.

Consistent with Zoning Ordinance Section 6977.j., a BMP plan shall be prepared for all Organic Material Processing Operations that demonstrates compliance with all operational and siting requirements of the ordinance. This BMP plan is educational in nature and intended as a tool for organic material operators to ensure compliance with applicable regulations.

PROPERTY OWNER/ OPERATOR CERTIFICATION

By signing below, I acknowledge and hereby certify the following:

- This plan has been completed to the best of my ability and accurately reflects the proposed site operations.
- I understand that a copy of this BMP plan will be provided to the County's Local Enforcement Agency, as the local agency responsible for implementing the State of California's regulatory requirements related to the management of solid waste.
- I understand that this plan is not comprehensive of the applicable regulations that may apply to the site operations and does not relieve the owner/operator of the responsibility of ensuring compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.
- I agree to comply with all applicable siting and operational requirements detailed in the County's Organic Material Processing Ordinance.
- I understand that other local, State and Federal laws may apply and it is my responsibility to ensure compliance at all times.
- I understand that failure to comply with the required BMPs and associated regulations could result in enforcement action.

Owner/Operator Name: _____

Signature: _____

Site Address: _____

Date: _____

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED OPERATIONS

Please provide a detailed description of the proposed site operations including the type(s) of materials to be processed, site layout, pile dimensions, fire access, water supply, temperature monitoring protocols, drainage and water quality protection measures, management of pests, odors, noise generating equipment and operations, and description of the general operations.

Best Management Practices

Operational Requirements

Unless otherwise noted, all Organic Materials Processing must comply with the following operational requirements and referenced regulations:

1. Organic Materials Processing operations shall be in compliance with the volume and material limitations set forth in the Title 14 of California Code of Regulations (CCR Title 14) Division 7, Chapter 3.1 (Compostable Materials Handling Operations and Facilities Regulatory Requirements– California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery [CalRecycle]). Additional permits may be required to comply with CalRecycle regulations, [CCR Title 14, Natural Resources–Division 7 - CalRecycle Home Page](#).
2. Operators are required to obtain a permit from the fire official prior to engaging in the operation and storing process of wood chips, hogged material, fines, compost and raw product in association with yard waste and similar material recycling facilities. The permit shall be renewed on an annual basis or shall be limited to such period of time as designated by the fire code official. Permits shall not be transferable and any change in use, location, occupancy, operation, or ownership shall require a new permit.
3. Project operations shall be completely covered, or equivalent measures implemented, to reduce the generation of wastewater runoff during a wet weather event.
 - a. Consider locating the organic materials processing on area that is:
 - i. Relatively flat (1 to 3 percent slope) and avoid steep slopes to minimize or eliminate erosion impacts.
 - ii. Not located in a known flood hazard or an area subject to consistent inundation.
 - iii. Designed and managed to minimize or eliminate runoff issues to avoid any organic leachate discharges. Organic processing leachate retaining pond may be required.
4. Operations shall be managed in a way to prevent attraction of flies, rodents, and other vectors. Refer to Frequently Asked Questions on the County Department of Environmental Health and Quality (DEHQ) website for information on managing vectors and rodents [FAQs for VCP CEQA2018.pdf \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#). Contact DEHQ by phone at (858) 694-2888 or email at vector@sdcountry.ca.gov for additional information and technical guidance on managing vectors. Refer to CCR Title 14 regulations that pertain to vectors.
5. Operations must comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Any activity during the typical bird breeding season (January 1–July 15 for raptors and February 1–September 15 for general nesting birds), shall occur in a manner or location that would not generate excessive noise within adjacent habitat areas where nesting birds may be present and must not generate hourly average noise levels above 60 decibels (dB) at adjacent native

habitat. For additional information, contact the California Department of Fish & Wildlife, 3883 Ruffin Road, San Diego, CA 92123, (858) 467-4201, <https://wildlife.ca.gov>; and the United States Fish & Wildlife Service, 2177 Salk Ave, Carlsbad, CA 92008, (760) 431-9440 <http://www.fws.gov/>.

6. Operations shall be conducted to minimize impact to sensitive habitats or species, including but not limited to avoiding impacts to sensitive vegetation and riparian habitats, wildlife corridors, nesting and migratory birds and other sensitive species. Operations must comply with all Federal, State, and local regulations protecting sensitive biological resources.
7. Hours of operations for chipping and grinding operations, including setup, preparation, or close up, are 8:00 a.m. or after 5:00 p.m.
8. Operations must comply with noise level limitations consistent with the County Noise Ordinance Section 36.404. See link: [ORDINANCE NO. 9962 \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)
9. The operator must control noise, hazards, and air contaminants such as dust and odors to prevent migration beyond the property boundary.
 - a. Sited to have adequate buffers/setbacks around the organic processing area is critical to alleviate any nuisance issues. Consider the prevailing wind direction (downwind) in siting the area to minimize odor/noise on- or off-site impacts. Organic processing area should not be sited close to residential property or occupied structures.
 - b. Hard-packed soil or concrete for mixing/turning pad that will limit or minimize mud problems and set a good foundation for equipment. This will minimize dust related issues during operations.
10. The operator shall prepare, implement, and maintain site operations to ensure that any type of composting operations implement best practicable treatment and control that meets pathogen reduction requirements as specified in CCR Title 14, Division 7, Chapter 3.1, Section 17868.3 – Process to Further Reduce Pathogens (CalRecycle).

Siting Requirements

Unless otherwise provided, all Organic Materials Processing must comply with the following siting requirements:

- The project shall be sited at least 100 feet away from the nearest groundwater well and/or nearest surface water body.
- Project operations shall be maintained a minimum of 50 feet from state or federally protected wetlands.

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD REGULATIONS

Compliance with State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) General Order WQ 2015-0121-DWQ, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Composting Operations and/or subsequent Orders for Composting Operations, where applicable ([wqo2015_0121_dwq.pdf \(ca.gov\)](#)). Small operations may be exempt or conditionally exempt from the SWRCB General Order. Operations conditionally exempt and exempt from the General Order are as follows:

Conditionally Exempt

Composting operations that occur on-farm or are part of agricultural, horticultural, aquaculture, silvicultural, floricultural, vermicultural, or viticultural activities are conditionally exempt if all the following conditions are met:

- a. The facility receives, processes, and stores less than 25,000 cubic yards of a combination of allowable feedstocks, compost (active, curing, and final product), additives and amendments on site at any given time;
- b. Feedstocks consist of vegetative agricultural materials, green materials, manure, and/or other material as allowed by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, but do not include animal carcasses. Examples include manures and bedding, orchard and vineyard prunings, culls and crop residues, and spoiled or unsalvageable food commodities;
- c. The resulting compost product is returned to the same site or a property owned by the owner of the composting activity and applied at an agronomic rate; and
- d. No more than 5,000 cubic yards of compost final product is given away or sold annually.

To remain conditionally exempt, activities must implement the following requirements:

- e. Materials and activities on-site must not cause, threaten to cause, or contribute to conditions of pollution, contamination, or nuisance;
- f. Activities shall be setback at least 100 feet from the nearest surface water body and/or the nearest water supply well;
- g. Dischargers must implement practices to minimize or eliminate the discharge of wastes that may adversely impact the quality or beneficial uses of waters of the State; and
- h. Dischargers must manage the application of water (including from precipitation events) to reduce the generation of wastewater; and working surfaces must be designed to prevent, to the greatest extent possible, ponding, infiltration, inundation, and erosion, notwithstanding precipitation events, equipment movement, and other aspects of the facility operations.

Operations Exempt From the Compost General Order

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