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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Dennis Balakian  
West Coast Waste, Inc.  
3077 S. Golden State Frontage Road  
Fresno, CA 93725

18 January 2018

# NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

## WATER QUALITY ORDER 2015-0121-DWQ GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPOSTING OPERATIONS WEST COAST WASTE, INC. – MADERA ORGANICS FACILITY MADERA COUNTY

West Coast Waste, Inc. submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) and Technical Report, dated August 2016, for its proposed composting facility located at 9537 Road 29 ½ in Madera to obtain coverage under Water Quality Order 2015-0121-DWQ, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Composting Operations (hereafter General Order). The filing fee was submitted separately on 16 September 2016. Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff conducted a facility inspection on 8 September 2016 and provided comments in a letter dated 28 September 2016. The inspection comments were subsequently addressed in an email dated 19 December 2017 and Central Valley Water Board staff re-inspected the site on 12 January 2018. The complete General Order can be accessed at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/water\\_quality/2015/wqo2015\\_0121\\_dwq.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2015/wqo2015_0121_dwq.pdf)

This Notice of Applicability (NOA) was developed after the review of the NOI and Technical Report as described in the attached Staff Memorandum which is a part of this NOA. Based on staff's review, the proposed Facility will meet the conditions of the General Order, and is hereby covered under General Order as a **Tier I** composting operation and assigned the enrollee identification number **2015-0121-DWQ-R5F011**. The Discharger must comply with all Tier I requirements of the General Order.

The filing fee for the Facility is based on Threat to Water Quality and Complexity rating of 3C. The submitted filing fee covers the first year permitted by this NOA. The Discharger shall submit the required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing issued by the State Water Resources Control Board) until the NOA is officially terminated. To fully comply with this NOA, please read the contents of the enclosed Staff Memorandum and all of the requirements of the General Order. The Discharger is responsible for implementing all operations in a manner that complies with the General Order. Any noncompliance with this General Order constitutes a violation of the Water Code, and is grounds for enforcement action, and/or termination of enrollment under this General Order. Conditions of this Composting General Order include but are not limited to:

1. West Coast Waste expressed interest in possibly expanding the facility in the future to exceed the 25,000 cubic yard limit for a Tier I facility, thus becoming a Tier II facility.

West Coast Waste will have to meet the hydraulic conductivity and stormwater management requirements for a Tier II facility and receive Central Valley Water Board staff approval prior to any tier change.

2. Prior to any facility expansion, a technical report with design information will have to be submitted at least 90 days prior to new construction of working surfaces, detention ponds, berms, ditches, or any other water quality protection containment structure for approval by the Central Valley Water Board. Additionally, a post-construction report is required within 60 days of completing all construction activities associated with all applicable containment and monitoring structures, as required for compliance with this General Order and the MRP.
3. A revised NOI is required at least 90 days prior to:
  - o adding a new feedstock, additive, or amendment;
  - o changing material or construction specifications;
  - o changing a monitoring program; or
  - o changing an operation or activity not described in the approved NOI and technical report.

Attachment B of the General Order includes specific monitoring and reporting requirements that must be complied with, including routine monitoring and reporting to the Central Valley Regional Water Control Board. The first year Annual Monitoring and Maintenance Report as identified in the General Order must be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board no later than **1 April 2019**, and then annually by 1 April each year.

All reports and other correspondence must be converted to searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents that are less than 50 MB are to be emailed to: [centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov). Documents that are 50 MB or larger are to be transferred to a portable data storage device and mailed to this office at the address provided on the cover page.

To ensure that your submittal is routed to the appropriate staff person, the following information should be included in the body of the email or any documentation submitted for this office:

Discharger Name:	West Coast Waste, Inc.
Facility Name:	Madera Organics Facility
County:	Madera
CIWQS Place ID:	828164

If you have any questions, please contact Kristen Gomes at (559) 445-5108 or [kristen.gomes@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:kristen.gomes@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*Original signed by Clay L. Rodgers for*

PAMELA C. CREEDON  
Executive Officer

Enclosures: Staff Memorandum

cc: State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento; Madera County Environmental Health Department, Madera

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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

TO: Daniel L. Carlson  
Senior Engineering Geologist

Scott J. Hatton  
Senior Water Resource Control Engineer

Clay L. Rodgers  
Assistant Executive Officer

FROM: Kristen S. Gomes  
Water Resource Control Engineer  
PE No. 79025

DATE: 18 January 2018

### **APPLICABILITY OF COVERAGE UNDER STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD WATER QUALITY ORDER 2015-0121-DWQ, WEST COAST WASTE, INC., MADERA ORGANICS FACILITY, MADERA COUNTY**

#### **REPORT OF WASTE DISCHARGE**

West Coast Waste, Inc. submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) and Technical Report, dated August 2016, for its proposed composting facility located at 9537 Road 29 ½ in Madera to obtain coverage under Water Quality Order 2015-0121-DWQ, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Composting Operations (hereafter General Order). The filing fee was submitted separately on 16 September 2016. Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff conducted a facility inspection on 8 September 2016 and provided comments in a letter dated 28 September 2016. The inspection comments were subsequently addressed in an email dated 19 December 2017 and Central Valley Water Board staff re-inspected the site on 12 January 2018.

#### **SITE CONDITIONS**

The proposed facility is located at 9537 Road 29 ½ in Madera County. The proposed composting operations will occupy approximately 7.5 acres of the 18.8 acre site. Chipping and grinding activities, which are not regulated under the General Order, will occupy approximately 2.0 acres. The facility was historically used as a fruit processing plant operated by Zoria Farms whose discharge was regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order 00-206. The facility is currently paved with an underground drainage system that leads to a water treatment plant that historically discharged onto an adjacent vineyard (approximately 50 acres) under WDRs 00-206. West Coast Waste originally intended to enroll as a Tier II facility and use the underground drainage system/treatment plant and vineyard as part of its stormwater management. However, since the General Order requires Tier II facilities to essentially contain its wastewater, West Coast Waste opted for initial enrollment as a Tier I facility and constructed berms around its proposed composting operations areas and sealed the inlets to the underground drainage system. West Coast Waste may wish to expand to a Tier II facility in the

future and might pursue site specific WDRs so it can use its existing drainage system/treatment plant and discharge into the associated agricultural field.

Based on Department of Water Resources (DWR) models, depth to groundwater at the facility is approximately 140 feet below ground surface. Groundwater flow direction is generally towards the north. Precipitation data was gathered from the only Madera, CA weather station listed in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrative (NOAA) Climate Data Online database with complete data. The area receives an average of 11.75 inches of rain per year. The maximum amount of rain received in one year was 22.13 inches in 1983 and the minimum amount of rain was 2.47 inches in 2013. The average annual pan evaporation is 46.91 inches per year as measured at the North Fork station. The magnitude of the 25-year 24-hour design storm was estimated to be 2.41 inches using data collected from the NOAA's Hydrometeorological Design Studies Center. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Floodplain Map No. 061039C1170E, the facility is not located within a 100-year flood plain.

Land uses within one mile of the facility include agricultural land and water is supplied to the facility by an on-site well. The closest surface water body is an irrigation canal that runs along the southern perimeter of the site and the nearest natural surface water body is the Cottonwood Creek, which is located 1.7 miles to the northwest. The composting operations have berms around the perimeter preventing wastewater runoff.

Soil samples were collected from borings for geologic characterization and for percolation testing. The upper most soils (down to 1.5 feet) consisted of fill material (silty sand). Laboratory analytical results indicate that the percolation rate of the underlying geologic material ranges from 15 to 30 minutes per inch, thus meeting the requirements of the General Order.

### **COMPOSTING OPERATIONS**

As a Tier I facility, West Coast Waste will be permitted to receive up to 25,000 cubic yards per year, which will be comprised of agricultural waste and other organic waste. Additives and amendments up to 10 percent by volume will be used as allowed by the General Order.

To compost, the facility anticipates using either or both covered aerated static piles or static piles with a finished compost cover. The majority of the incoming agricultural waste will arrive pre-processed at the facility. The facility does not anticipate any non-compostable residuals but will ship them off-site for appropriate disposal if any are received or generated. The finished compost product will be stored separately from the mulches, biomass, and amendments from the chipping and grinding activities prior to being shipped off-site.

### **MONITORING AND REPORTING**

West Coast Waste will conduct a monitoring program as prescribed in the applicable portions of Attachment B of General Order Monitoring and Reporting requirements. Sections that apply are A.1., A.2., A.5., and B. Results of monitoring will be reported annually in the Annual Monitoring and Maintenance Report, which will be submitted by **1 April** of each year as long as the Notice of Applicability is in effect.

### **SITE CLOSURE**

At least 90 days prior to ceasing composting operations, West Coast Waste shall submit a Site Closure Plan to the RWQCB for approval. The site restoration shall include work necessary to protect public health, safety, and the environment.

## **DISCUSSION**

The proposed Facility meets the requirements for a Tier I facility under the General Order.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Based on staff review of the technical report and supporting documents, West Coast Waste will meet the requirements of the General Order. The Notice of Applicability should be issued and stay in effect as long as West Coast Waste implements all operations in a manner that complies with the requirements of the General Order.

West Coast Waste must comply with the following items:

1. West Coast Waste expressed interest in possibly expanding the facility in the future to exceed the 25,000 cubic yard limit for a Tier I facility, thus becoming a Tier II facility. West Coast Waste will have to meet the hydraulic conductivity and stormwater management requirements for a Tier II facility and receive Central Valley Water Board staff approval prior to any tier change.
2. Prior to any facility expansion, a technical report with design information will have to be submitted at least 90 days prior to new construction of working surfaces, detention ponds, berms, ditches, or any other water quality protection containment structure for approval by the Central Valley Water Board. Additionally, a post-construction report is required within 60 days of completing all construction activities associated with all applicable containment and monitoring structures, as required for compliance with this General Order and the MRP.
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