
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

8 May 2018

Erik Van Der Vis
Turning Leaf Organics
25948 Road 92
Tulare, CA 93724

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

WATER QUALITY ORDER 2015-0121-DWQ GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPOSTING OPERATIONS TURNING LEAF ORGANICS TULARE COUNTY

On 27 April 2018, Turning Leaf Organics (hereafter Discharger) submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) and filing fee to obtain coverage under Water Quality Order 2015-0121-DWQ, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Composting Operations (hereafter General Order), for composting operations at its proposed new composting facility located at 25948 Road 92 in Tulare, CA. A technical report, prepared by Provost & Pritchard, was previously submitted on 3 November 2017. The Tulare County Planning Commission approved Special Use Permit 17-081 for the proposed facility on 11 April 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

This Notice of Applicability (NOA) was developed after the review of your NOI and revised Technical Report as described in the attached Staff Memorandum, which is a part of this NOA. Based on staff's review, the Facility meets the conditions of the General Order and is hereby covered under General Order **2015-0121-DWQ-R5F014** as a **Tier II** composting operation. As a new facility, the Discharger must comply with all Tier II requirements of the General Order prior to the commencement of composting operations.

The filing fee for the Turning Leaf Organics composting facility is based on Threat to Water Quality and Complexity rating of 3B. The submitted \$4,699 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 familiarize yourself with 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:

- Submit a post-construction report to the Central Valley Water Board for review and approval 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. **Composting operations may not commence without Central Valley Water Board staff approval of the post-construction certification report.**
- A revised NOI is required at least 90 days prior to:
 - adding a new feedstock, additive, or amendment;
 - changing material or construction specifications;
 - changing a monitoring program; or
 - 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 you must comply 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. 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.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the attached memorandum, please contact Kristen Gomes at (559) 445-5108 or kristen.gomes@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Scott J. Hatton for

Pamela C. Creedon,
Executive Officer

Enclosures: Staff Memorandum

cc: Brianna St. Pierre, State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

TO: Daniel L. Carlson
Senior Engineering Geologist

Scott J. Hatton
Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer

Clay L. Rodgers
Assistant Executive Officer

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

DATE: 8 May 2018

APPLICABILITY OF COVERAGE UNDER STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD WATER QUALITY ORDER 2015-0121-DWQ, TURNING LEAF ORGANICS, TULARE COUNTY

REPORT OF WASTE DISCHARGE

On 27 April 2018, Turning Leaf Organics submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) and filing fee to obtain coverage under Water Quality Order 2015-0121-DWQ, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Composting Operations (hereafter General Order) for its proposed new composting facility located at 25948 Road 92 in Tulare, CA. A technical report, prepared by Provost & Pritchard, was previously submitted on 3 November 2017. The Tulare County Planning Commission approved Special Use Permit 17-081 for the proposed facility on 11 April 2018.

SITE CONDITIONS

The facility is located at on a 14.6-acre portion of the 20-acre parcel located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Road 92 and Avenue 260, north of Tulare, on APN 149-010-009 (Attachment A). Based on Department of Water Resources models, depth to groundwater at the facility was approximately 170 feet below ground surface in the Fall of 2017. The groundwater flow gradient is generally to the west or southwest.

Data from the Visalia Station (Station 049367) were used to determine the average annual precipitation (10.15 inches) and the average annual pan evaporation (76.23 inches). The magnitude of the 24-hour 25-year design storm was estimated to be 2.3 inches. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Floodplain Map No. 06107C0940E, the facility is not located within a 100-year flood plain.

Land uses within one mile of the facility include agricultural land and a few rural residential homes. Water will be supplied to the facility by an on-site well that also serves an adjacent residence and shop. Though the well is within 100 feet of the composting operations, the

composting deck will be setback at least 100 feet from this well. The closest surface water body is an irrigation ditch that runs east to west along the northern property line. The ditch elevation is higher than the current grading of the property to prevent surface runoff from entering the ditch. The proposed grading plan for the composting operation will lower this area even more to route surface water runoff into the proposed stormwater retention basin.

The regional geologic materials underlying the project site consist of Quaternary alluvium to a depth of 250 to 300 feet. Subsurface soils, to maximum depth of approximately 50 feet bsg, were logged in a series of soil borings and predominantly consist of alternating layers of silty sand, sandy silt, sand, clayey silt and silty clay.

COMPOSTING OPERATIONS

Manure from Kings and Tulare Counties will be imported and placed into approximately 20 to 30 windrows, where it will be turned and moisture conditioned as needed. It is anticipated that the composting process will take three to four months to complete. Once the composting process is complete, it will be stockpiled for shipment and additives such as gypsum, lime, sulfur, potash, and dolomite may be added upon the request of the customer. Additives will be shipped in on an as needed basis and will not be stored onsite. Under Special Use Permit 17-081 issued by Tulare County, the facility is currently permitted for up to 40,000 cubic yards per year. Turning Leaf Organics anticipates composting two 20,000 cubic yards batches per year.

Composting operations are proposed to be on native soil after it has been stripped, over excavated, moisture conditioned, and compacted to meet the hydraulic conductivity requirements of 1×10^{-5} cm/s. The site will be graded so that stormwater runoff will flow to a drainage ditch located along the northern portion of the facility and then to a stormwater retention basin. The proposed stormwater retention basin will be sufficiently sized for the 25-year, 24-hour storm event. The basin will be lined with a 60-mil HDPE geomembrane placed on top of a 1-foot thick prepared subgrade that meets the hydraulic conductivity requirements of 1×10^{-6} cm/s. One pan lysimeter will be installed under the basin in accordance with the General Order and a leak location survey will be conducted on the finished liner system.

TIMELINE FOR COMPLIANCE

Full compliance with the General Order must be completed prior to the commencement of composting operations for new facilities. Turning Leaf Organics must submit a post-construction report to the Central Valley Water Board staff for review and approval 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. **Composting operations may not commence prior to Central Valley Water Board staff approval of the post-construction report.**

MONITORING AND REPORTING

Turning Leaf Organics will regularly inspect and maintain all containment, control, monitoring structures, and monitoring systems pursuant to the submitted Technical Report and Attachment B of the General Order Monitoring and Reporting requirements. The frequency of inspections will be sufficient to prevent discharges of feedstocks, compost (active, curing, or final product), or wastewater from creating, threatening to create, or contributing to conditions of contamination, pollution, or nuisance.

Turning Leaf Organics 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., 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, Turning Leaf Organics 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

Future composting operations will be on native surfaces and an on-site stormwater basin will be constructed. All composting areas are anticipated to meet the hydraulic conductivity requirements of the general order. Hydraulic conductivity samples collected from the uppermost 12 inches of the working surfaces, drainage ditches, and stormwater basin subgrade will be collected for laboratory analysis and submitted as part of the post-construction certification report. Turning Leaf Organics must meet the hydraulic conductivity and liner system requirements of the General Order prior to the commencement of composting operations.

RECOMMENDATION

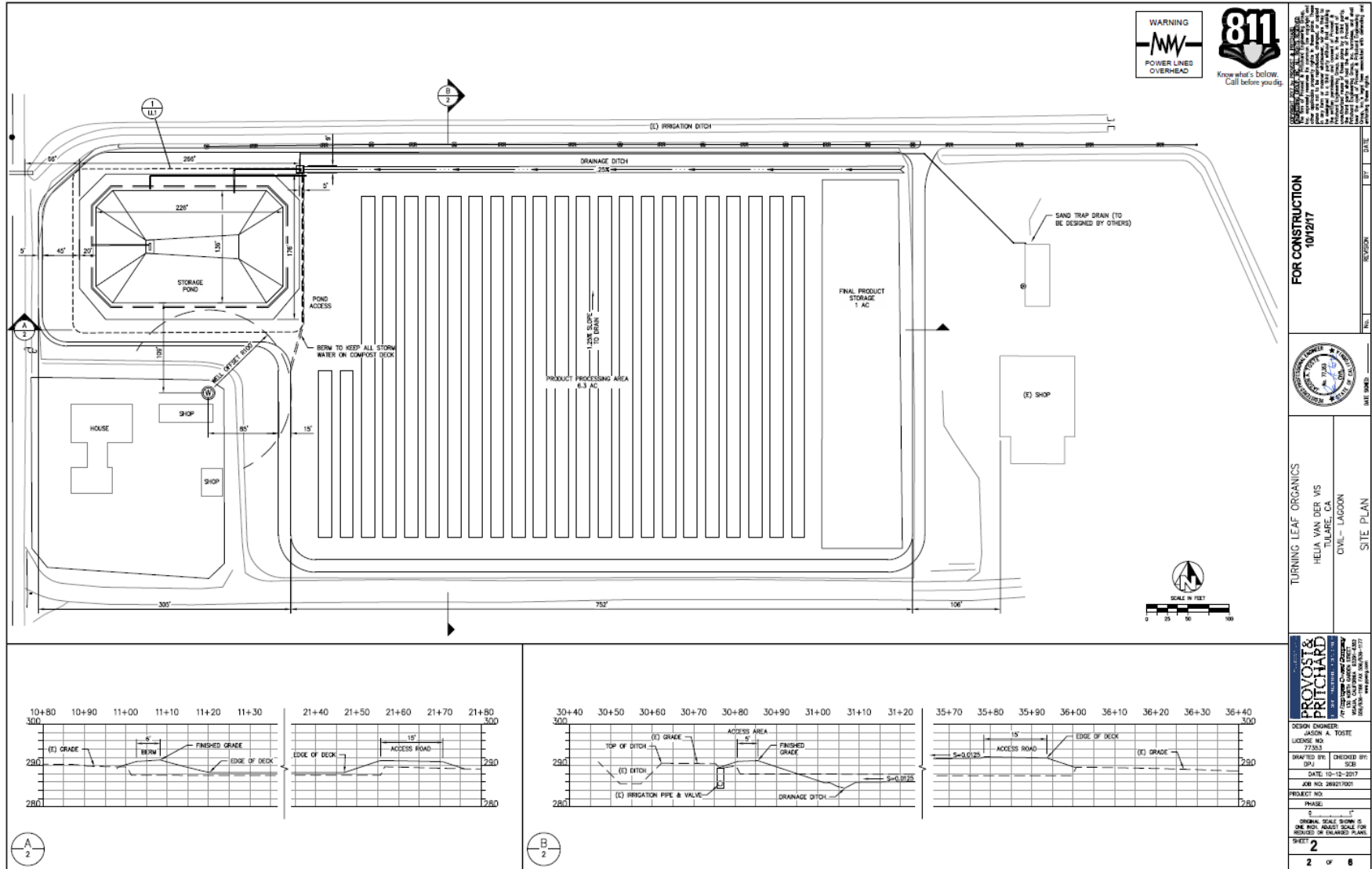
Based on staff review of the revised Technical Report and supporting documents, it is anticipated that Turning Leaf Organics can meet the minimum requirements of the General Order. The Notice of Applicability can be issued and stay in effect as long as the Turning Leaf Organics implements all operations in a manner that complies with the requirements of the General Order.

Turning Leaf Organics must comply with the following items:

1. Submit a post-construction report to the Central Valley Water Board for review and approval 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. **Composting operations may not commence without Central Valley Water Board staff approval of the post-construction certification report.**
2. A revised NOI is required at least 90 days prior to:
 - a. adding a new feedstock, additive, or amendment;
 - b. changing material or construction specifications;
 - c. changing a monitoring program; or
 - d. changing an operation or activity not described in the approved NOI and technical report.

Turning Leaf Organics
 Notice of Applicability
 Composting General Order

ATTACHMENT A



FOR CONSTRUCTION 10/12/17

TURNING LEAF ORGANICS
 HELIA VAN DER VES
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 OAKLAND, CA 94612
 PHONE: 415.763.4444
 FAX: 415.763.4444
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DESIGN ENGINEER: JASON A. TORRE
 LICENSE NO.: 77363
 DRAWN BY: [REDACTED] CHECKED BY: [REDACTED]
 DATE: 10-12-2017
 JOB NO.: 20170700
 PROJECT NO.:
 PHASE:
 ORIGINAL SCALE: 1" = 100'
 ONE INCH EQUALS SCALE FOR REDUCED OR ENLARGED PLANS
 SHEET: 2 OF 8
 10/12/2017 10:08 AM