



Department of
Resources Recycling and Recovery

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT PROGRAM EIR

Opportunity for Public Comment on Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Adoption of Regulations for Short-Lived Climate Pollutants: Organic Waste Methane Emission Reduction (SCH #2018122023).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency, has released a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Statewide Adoption of Regulations for Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP): Organic Waste Methane Emission Reduction. The public review and comment period for the Draft Program EIR will be July 30, 2019 through September 13, 2019. During the review period, CalRecycle will hold a public meeting on August 20, 2019 to discuss the Draft Program EIR and receive comments.

BACKGROUND

CalRecycle, in consultation with California Air Resources Board (CARB), is charged with developing regulations to reduce statewide disposal of organic waste from the 2014 levels by 50 percent by 2020 and 75 percent by 2025. In addition, at least 20 percent of the edible food in the organic waste stream must be recovered for human consumption by 2025. Materials that cannot be effectively recovered would be diverted to organics recycling facilities to make useful products, including compost, fertilizer, fuel, or energy. These facilities may be developed at existing landfills, other waste management sites, or at new stand-alone sites.

The Draft Program EIR provides a programmatic analysis of potential environmental effects that may result from the adoption of the proposed regulations and subsequent development of organic waste recovery facilities in the State of California, in accordance with CEQA. The proposed regulations include provisions related to the following types of activities:

- Waste collection, with a focus on source-separated collection of organic waste;
- Edible food recovery, with a focus on commercial edible food generators such as wholesale food vendors, supermarkets, grocery stores, and restaurants
- Recovery standards at facilities processing organic waste and methods for reducing contamination of recovered organic waste, and the presence of organic waste in disposal streams;

- Infrastructure planning, with a focus on regional coordination to plan for future organic waste recovery capacity and edible food recovery operations;
- Procurement at the local level of compost; renewable gas used for fuel for transportation, electricity, heating applications, or pipeline injection; electricity from biomass conversion; and recycled content paper products. (RNG);
- Developing reporting requirements, building on existing systems for reporting to CalRecycle; and
- Enforcement, with the primary requirements for mandatory enforcement being placed at the local level but with CalRecycle also having an expanded enforcement role.

SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The Draft EIR assesses potential environmental effects that may result from the implementation of the CalRecycle's SLCP Organic Waste Methane Emission Reduction Requirements, including potentially significant environmental effects related to aesthetics; agricultural and forestry resources; air quality; archaeological, historical and tribal cultural resources; biological resources; geology and soils; greenhouse gas emissions and climate change; hazards and hazardous materials; hydrology and water quality; noise; and transportation. The Draft Program EIR evaluates and describes, on a statewide, program-level basis, the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of organic waste recovery facilities, identifies those impacts that could be significant, and presents mitigation measures, which, if adopted by CalRecycle or other responsible agencies, could avoid or minimize these impacts.

PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE DRAFT EIR

Written comments or questions concerning this Draft EIR should be directed to the name and address listed below:

Mail: CalRecycle
Attn: Marcus Santillano
P.O. Box 4025
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95812-4025

Email: slcp.organics@CalRecycle.ca.gov

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

This Draft EIR is available for review online at:

<https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Laws/Rulemaking/SLCP/>

It can also be reviewed in person, along with all documents cited in the Draft EIR, on any business day between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at CalRecycle's offices at 1001 I Street in Sacramento. Please contact Marcus Santillano by email at the address above if you would like to schedule review of the document in person.

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PUBLIC MEETING AND SCHEDULE

The public will have an opportunity to provide comments on the Draft Program EIR during the following CalRecycle Monthly Public Meeting:

Date: Tuesday, August 20, 2019

Time: 1:00 PM

Address: CalEPA building

1001 I Street
Byron Sher Auditorium (2nd floor)
Sacramento, CA 95814