



**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A
RECIRCULATED DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)
FOR Z-BEST COMPOSTING FACILITY MODIFICATIONS**

The County of Santa Clara is the Lead Agency which has prepared a Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the project described below:

The applicant has applied for a modification of its Use Permit and an Architectural Site Approval for its existing composting facility at 980 State Route 25 (Refer to Figure 1). The proposed modification would allow an upgrade of the facility's existing municipal solid waste (MSW) composting process from the current windrow method to an aerated static pile process and associated modifications to existing operations and site conditions to accommodate the new processing technology. The purpose of the proposed project is to enable faster and more efficient composting of MSW.

The proposed technology and operations modifications would enable Z-Best to increase its current permitted composting capacity from a total of 1,500 tons per day (tpd) with up to 15 days per year at 2,500 tpd, to 2,750 tpd with up to 20 days per year at 3,500 tpd. The additional capacity is consistent with state mandates and the State of California's Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) goals to increase waste diversion from landfills. The proposed increase in intake volume would come from increased MSW. No modification of existing green waste processes or increase in green waste intake volume is proposed as part of the proposed project.

The new MSW composting technology would be installed within the existing MSW composting area of the site - no expansion of facility boundaries is proposed. Additional site modifications include raising the MSW composting pad above the base flood elevation, modifying existing Detention Basin #1 to increase capacity and increase berm height, excavating additional flood storage in the northern portion of Area 2, relocating the existing driveway to become the fourth leg of the SR-25/Bolsa Road intersection, and associated improvements within the SR-25 right-of-way. The Use Permit Modification would also include approval of previously constructed but un-permitted site features.

The Notice of Preparation for the project was released in October 2018, and a prior DEIR was released for public comment in January 2021. In response to public and agency comments received on that original DEIR, the County determined that additional analysis was required pertaining to the project and its environmental impacts. In addition, during the intervening period, several changes to the project were proposed by the Applicant which also required revisions to the analysis and conclusions of the original DEIR. The County has determined that

these revisions and additions constitute “significant new information” as defined by CEQA. Furthermore, the County has determined that the revisions are not limited to a few chapters or portions of the EIR and therefore has determined to recirculate the entire document. This document constitutes the Recirculated DEIR for the proposed Z-Best Composting Facility Modification Project.

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5(f)(1), the County advises reviewers that although the previous comments on the original DEIR are still part of the administrative record and were considered when conducting additional analysis and drafting this Recirculated DEIR, those comments do not require a written response in the final EIR, and that new comments on this Recirculated DEIR must be submitted during the public review period. **The County will only respond to comments submitted in response to this Recirculated DEIR.**

The project (SCH# 2018102041, County File PLN17-6498) would result in significant and unavoidable Air Quality and Transportation impacts. This notice is required to disclose whether the project site is listed as a hazardous waste site. The project site is not a listed hazardous waste site.

Your comments regarding the environmental effects of this project and the adequacy of the Recirculated DEIR are welcome. The public review period for this Recirculated DEIR begins on **April 20, 2023** and ends on **June 5, 2023**. The Recirculated DEIR and referenced documents are available for review on the Department of Planning Development’s web site: <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/dpd/Development/Current/Pages/Current.aspx> (Gilroy>File 6498 - Z-Best Composting Use Permit).

A meeting to receive comments on the Recirculated DEIR has been tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 6:00 PM before the County of Santa Clara Planning Commission at the County Government Center, 70 W. Hedding Street, San Jose, CA 95110. Written comments on the Recirculated DEIR should be addressed to Valerie Negrete at the following email address: Valerie.negrete@pln.sccgov.org

County of Santa Clara Planning
Attention: Valerie Negrete
70 West Hedding, 7th Floor
San Jose, Ca. 95110



Valerie Negrete, Senior Planner

4/19/23

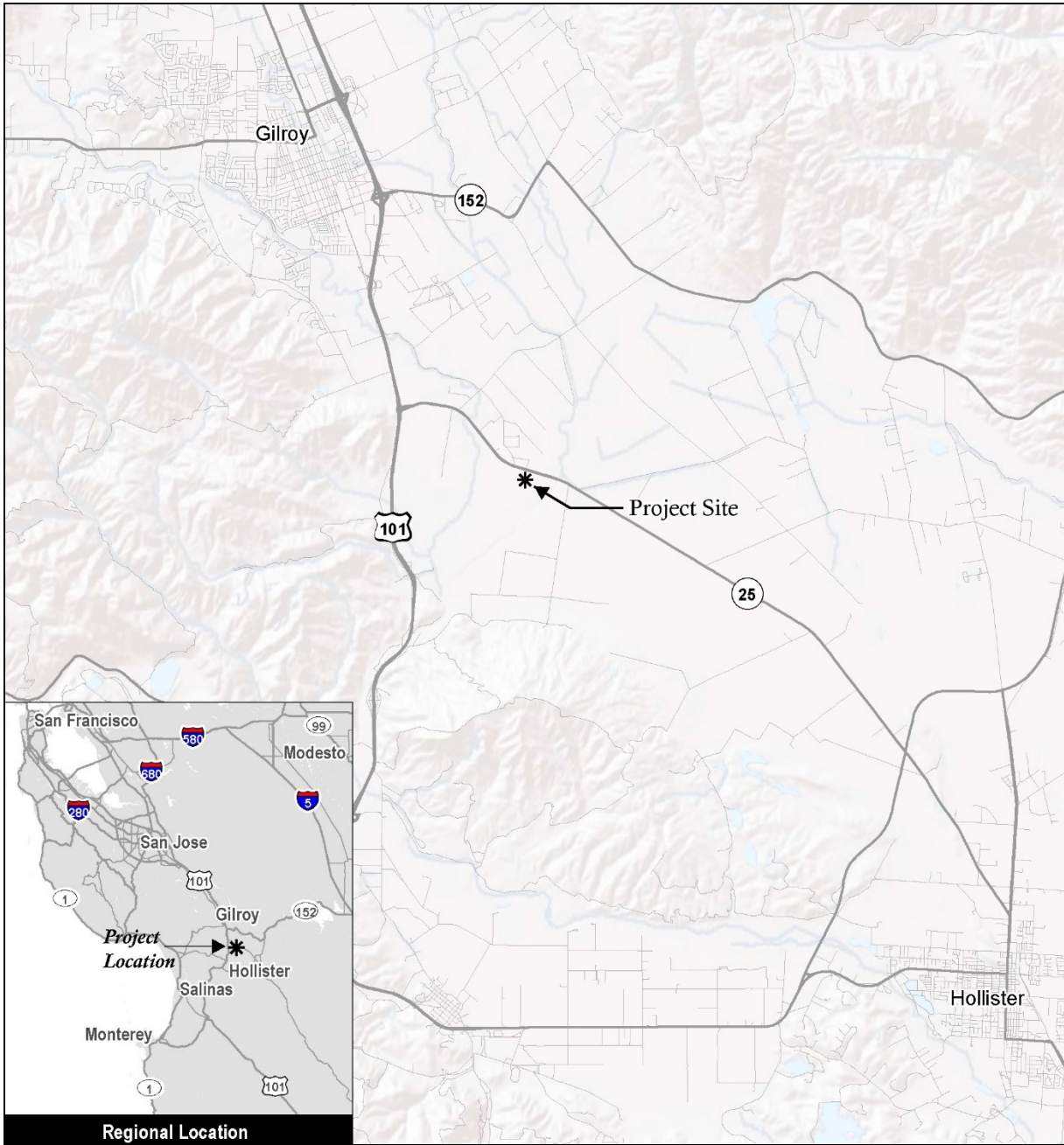


Figure 1 - Project Site Location