



November 30, 2023

Patrick Womble, Environmental Resources Manager  
Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority  
7040 N. Highway 59  
Merced, CA 95348  
[pwomble@mcrwma.org](mailto:pwomble@mcrwma.org)

**Subject: SCH No. 2014061081** – Notice of Preparation for the Highway 59 Landfill Composting Facility Supplemental EIR to the Highway 59 Landfill Valley Fill Project EIR

Dear Patrick Womble,

Thank you for allowing the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) staff to provide comments on the proposed project and for your agency's consideration of these comments as part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process. CalRecycle staff have the following comments on the subject Notice of Preparation:

### **Project Description**

The current onsite activity is a green waste windrow composting operation that receives no more than 25,000 tons per year of green waste. The proposed project would:

- Increase annual tonnage from 25,000 tons per year to 50,000 tons per year
- Increase onsite storage of organic material to 100,000 cubic yards
- Add food waste as a compost feedstock in addition to the green waste currently accepted on site
- Add covered aerated static pile composting in addition to the windrow composting onsite.

### **Comments**

The addition of food waste and the increase in the amount of materials stored on site would require the activity to be regulated under a Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) issued by the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) for the County of Merced.

### **Solid Waste Regulatory Oversight**

The County of Merced, Division of Environmental Health, is the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) and is responsible for providing regulatory oversight of solid waste handling activities, including inspections. Please contact Esther Canal, the LEA, at 209-381-1081 to discuss the regulatory requirements for the proposed project.

### **Conclusion**

The solid waste facilities permit process requires CalRecycle to concur on the issuance of the proposed permit. This is a discretionary action and therefore requires CalRecycle to comply with CEQA requirements as a Responsible Agency.

CalRecycle staff requests copies of any subsequent environmental documents, copies of public notices and any Notices of Determination for this proposed project.

If the environmental document is adopted during a public hearing, CalRecycle staff requests 10 days advance notice of this hearing. If the document is adopted without a public hearing, CalRecycle staff requests 10 days advance notification of the date of the adoption and proposed project approval by the decision making body.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact me at 916.341.6119 or by e-mail at [Harprit.Mattu@calrecycle.ca.gov](mailto:Harprit.Mattu@calrecycle.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*Harprit Mattu*

Harprit Mattu, REHS, Environmental Scientist

Permitting & Assistance Branch – North  
Waste Permitting, Compliance & Mitigation Division  
CalRecycle

cc: Eric Kiruja, Supervisor  
Permitting & Assistance Branch – North

Esther Canal, REHS, LEA  
County of Merced, Division of Environmental Health