

California Department of Transportation

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November 29, 2023

10-MER-59-PM 020.904
Highway 59 Landfill Composting Facility
Supplemental EIR
SCH# 2014061081

Patrick Womble
Environmental Resource Manager
Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority
7040 North Highway 59
Merced, CA 95348

Dear Mr. Womble:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed Landfill Composting Facility. The project is immediately east of State Route 59 at 7040 North Highway 59. The project expands the already-approved Valley Fill Project with a compost facility designed to accept up to 50,000 tons per year of green waste and food waste and capable of storing up to 100,000 cubic yards on-site of organic material. The Department has the following comments:

1. Per our email discussion on November 2, 2023, a traffic engineer is under contract to study the traffic impacts of the project. Their study should be submitted to Caltrans for review and comment prior to project approval.
 - a. This study should include any truck trips that weren't considered when the original expansion was approved.
 - b. Any Synchro/Simtraffic (version 12) electronic files used in the analysis should also be included in the submittal.
 - c. Depending on Trip Generation and Distribution, a full Traffic Impact Study (TIS) may be required. The project proponent would have to prepare this TIS and submit it to Caltrans for review and comment prior to project approval.
2. Caltrans would like to review the pre and post construction stormwater runoff calculations for two (2) 10-year/24-hour storm event and Drainage and Grading Plans showing the flow patterns. The applicant needs to ensure that the existing State drainage facilities will not be significantly impacted by the project. Additional review will be required once the project development plans, including but not limited to, Drainage and Grading Plans and drainage calculations are submitted.
3. The proposed expansion on the above-mentioned parcels has indicated an increase in the imperious (paved) and pervious (unpaved) stormwater runoff area. If historical undeveloped topography shows drainage from this site flowed into the State right-of-way (R/W), it may continue to do so with the conditions that peak flows may not be

increased from the pre-construction quantity Any increase in runoff generated by the proposed development should be stored/mitigated onsite.

4. There are six (6) existing State cross culverts within the proposed landfill expansion vicinity (See attachment). Caltrans would not allow additional runoff draining into the State R/W nor significantly impacting these existing drainage facilities or flow patterns.
5. If any construction related activities associated with the expansion encroach into Caltrans Right of Way (ROW), the project proponent must apply for an Encroachment Permit to the Caltrans District 10 Encroachment Permit Office. All California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation, with supporting technical studies, must be submitted with the Encroachment Permit Application. These studies will include an analysis of potential impacts to any cultural sites, historic properties, biological resources, hazardous waste locations, scenic highways, and/or other environmental resources within Caltrans Right of Way, at the project site(s). Evidence of consultation with local Native American tribes and interested parties will need to be presented within the technical documents for approval of encroachment in the Caltrans ROW. If there are impacts to protected water resources within Caltrans ROW, Caltrans will need to see the correspondence with the permitting authorities (California Department of Fish and Wildlife, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board) and be provided copies of any required permits prior to the start of any construction in Caltrans ROW.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (209) 483-2582 or Nicholas Fung at (209) 986-1552.

Sincerely,



FOR

Tom Dumas
Chief, Office of Metropolitan Planning