



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & BUILDING
NEGATIVE DECLARATION ADDENDUM

PLN-2041
02/14/2020

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION NO. ED23-158

DATE: October 12, 2023
PROJECT/ENTITLEMENT: Goodrow Amendment AMEND2023-00004
APPLICANT NAME: Brad Goodrow
CONTACT PERSON: Amber Davis
ADDRESS: 3730 Calf Canyon Highway, Creston, CA 93432
EMAIL: amber@questplanning.net
TELEPHONE: 805-748-1299

PROPOSED USES/INTENT: Hearing to consider a request by Brad Goodrow to amend Conditional Use Permit (DRC2006-00147) to increase the allowable weight of incoming compostable feedstock from 200 Tons per Day (TPD) to 300 TPD and allow for a maximum of 50,000 tons of compostable material on site at any given time. This amendment will remedy previous discrepancies between State and County issued permits. The project is on a 434-acre parcel that is located on the north side of Calf Canyon Road at 3730 Calf Canyon Road (Highway 58), approximately 0.5 miles east of O'Donovan Road, southeast of the community of Creston. The site is within the Agriculture land use category and within the El Pomar/Estrella sub area of the North County Planning Area.

LOCATION: The project is located on the north side of Calf Canyon Road at 3730 Calf Canyon Road (Highway 58), approximately 0.5 miles east of O'Donovan Road, southeast of the community of Creston. The site is within the El Pomar/Estrella sub area of the North County Planning Area.

LEAD AGENCY: County of San Luis Obispo
Dept of Planning & Building
976 Osos Street, Rm. 200
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-2040
Website: <http://www.sloplanning.org>

Findings: Per State CEQA Guidelines (Sec. 15164(a), Sec. 15162), the Lead Agency may prepare an addendum to an adopted Mitigated Negative Declaration where all of the following apply: 1) only minor technical changes or additions are necessary; 2) no substantial changes have been made or occurred that would require major revisions to the Mitigated Negative Declaration due to either new significant effects or substantial increases in the severity of previously identified significant effects; 3) substantial changes have not occurred with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken; 4) no new information of substantial importance which was not known or could not have been known at the time of the adopted Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Based on staff's determination that all the above conditions apply, an addendum to the adopted Mitigated Negative Declaration is appropriate. The basis for this conclusion is described in the following section. In addition, please refer to the original Mitigated Negative Declaration for further discussion about all potentially significant issues originally identified for the proposed project.

Basis for Addendum: The previously adopted Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) (ED06-352 / SCH No. 2009081096) prepared for the project identified potentially significant impacts relating to air quality, hazards and hazardous materials, public resources, and traffic and circulation. Since circulation of the MND, the applicant is proposing revisions to the project description. These revisions include an increase in the allowable weight of daily incoming compostable feedstock from 200 Tons per Day (TPD) to 300 TPD, and a maximum compost material storage capacity of 50,000 tons (which is the equivalent of approximately 100,000 cubic yards) at any given time (as opposed to the 50,000 cubic yards currently permitted).

The Composting Facility in Creston was originally permitted by the County of San Luis Obispo (County) under Conditional Use Permit (DRC2006-00147) which authorized the existing compost research facility to operate as an 8.03-acre permanent composting facility. A Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) (ED06-352 / SCH No. 2009081096) was prepared for the project. The project description analyzed in the MND considered compost deliveries of 200 TPD, 8 truck trip truck trips (4 roundtrips), and a maximum capacity of 50,000 tons of compost material at any given time. However, the conditions of approval (i.e., approved development) stated the allowed storage capacity was 50,000 cubic yards, instead of the 50,000 tons analyzed in the MND. Additionally, the applicant's permit with CalRecycle (previously known as the "California Integrated Waste Management Board") only allowed the applicant a maximum of 50,000 cubic yards. Even though the conditions of approval stated the incorrect capacity of 50,000 cubic yards, the MND considered a greater maximum tonnage of 50,000 tons. The MND did not need to be revised at the time because it analyzed a larger project scope, and the potential impacts would be reduced with the smaller project.

In 2015, the applicant applied for an amendment (DRC2015-00086) to Conditional Use Permit DRC2006-00147 to allow for the increase in truck trips per day from 8 trips (4 roundtrips) to 24 trips (12 roundtrips). This change was approved by the Planning Commission in 2016. This increase of up to 24 truck trips per day will allow the applicant to increase the daily delivery of compostable material to 300 TPD. Therefore, no new traffic trips are required to accommodate the proposed increase from 200 TPD to 300 TPD.

The Composting Facility currently operates on 5.86 acres. However, the applicant was approved for a compost area of up to 8.03 acres as part of the conditional use permit (DRC2006-00147) approved 2006. To increase the maximum capacity to 50,000 tons, the applicant will improve an additional 2.17-acres of land to create an additional compost pad. This additional disturbance was already analyzed in the 2006 MND as it will bring the applicant up to the 8.03 acres that was previously approved. Additionally, the applicant has the ability to increase the height of the existing compost pile windrows to accommodate the increase in capacity. Therefore, even though the volume is being doubled, it will not require additional disturbance beyond the additional 2.17-acre pad.

A summary of the relevant environmental issues:

Air Quality. Project composting activities and ongoing operations will generate emissions that exceed the threshold for PM10 (dust). Additionally, the project has the potential to increase emissions and odors. As such, the previously adopted mitigation measures require the applicant to conduct a Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) investigation and implement appropriate measures per the APCD, implement a dust mitigation plan, implement measures to reduce vehicle exhaust and emissions, and prepare an Odor Impact Minimization Plan that includes odor screening and load checking procedures, good housekeeping procedures, and an odor complaint response system. Additionally, the Odor Impact Minimization Plan must be reviewed and approved by the APCD and CalRecycle. Incorporation of these measures will reduce dust generation impacts, emissions, and odor impacts to less than significant levels, and no additional mitigation measures are needed beyond those that were previously adopted. Therefore, impacts are less than significant with mitigation.

Biological Resources. No listed plant or animal species were identified on the project site in the location of the previously approved composting facilities and operations. The project site is located within the Carrizo Vernal Pool region designated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. A site visit conducted by Jeff Oliviera, Environmental Resource Specialist, where it was concluded that no evidence of vernal pools of potential areas for ponded water was observed. Additionally, County staff visited the project site May 12, 2023, and found that the 2.17 acre expansion area was already disturbed by existing project operations; therefore, the potential for sensitive species was not expected. Proposed project additions would be contiguous with the existing operation and would not require the removal of any trees or native vegetation. In the event that pesticides are utilized as a part of a vector control program, the applicant has indicated that all hazardous materials shall be applied and stored in accordance with manufacturer specifications, industry standards, and the regulations of the Agricultural Commissioner's Office and the Department of Environmental Health. Therefore, the project is not expected to result in significant impacts to biological resources.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials. The project is not located in an area known for hazardous material contamination and the applicant does not propose the utilization of hazardous materials. The project does not present a significant fire safety risk due to the fact that compost rows are continually aerated and watered. The project is not expected to conflict with any regional evacuation plan. Due to compostable material containing green waste and food waste the project has the potential to attract pests and vectors including rodents and flies. The existing operation incorporates a regular turning program that ensures constant mixing and aeration of compost rows. This discourages nesting and breeding of these vectors and the accumulation of odor creating bacteria. The project also utilizes rodent traps and pesticides. Although these measures are known to discourage vectors, the project still has the potential to attract vectors resulting in a significant but mitigable impact through implementation of a Vector Control Program. Therefore, impacts are less than significant with mitigation.

Transportation and Circulation. The project site is located on Calf Canyon Road (HWY 58), a Caltrans maintained road. Under the current permit, the allowable maximum number of truck trips per day is 24 trips (12 round trips). The amended project will not result in an increase in the allowable number of truck trips per day. The current rate of traffic will not result in a significant change to the existing road service or traffic safety levels. No additional measures are needed, and impacts will be less than significant.

Other CEQA Issues Considered

County staff also considered issue areas such as Public Services and Utilities and Cumulative Impacts and determined that impacts to these issue areas are less than significant as the overall operational characteristics will not change, and no additional public facility fees are necessary to reduced impacts to a level of less than significance.

Conclusion

The Environmental Coordinator, after review of the previously-prepared MND finds that: there are no substantial changes proposed for the project which would require substantial revisions of the previous MND; no substantial changes have occurred with respect to the circumstance under which the project is undertaken; no new mitigations are necessary to reduce potential environmental impacts; and no new information of substantial importance has been identified which was not known at the time that the previous MND was adopted. Therefore, recirculation of the previously adopted MND is not required.

Additional Information: Additional information pertaining to this environmental determination may be obtained by contacting the Lead Agency at the above address or telephone number.

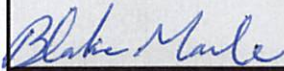
Notice of Determination

State Clearinghouse No. 2009081096

This is to advise that the San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission as *Lead Agency* *Responsible Agency* approved the above described project on October 26, 2023, and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

The project will not have a significant effect on the environment. An Addendum to the Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Mitigation measures and monitoring were made a condition of approval of the project. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted for this project. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the Negative Declaration with comments and responses and record of project approval is available to the General Public at the 'Lead Agency' address above.



Blake Maule (bmaule@co.slo.ca.us/ 805-781-4163) ^{11/14/23} County of San Luis Obispo

Signature	Project Manager Name	Date	Public Agency
-----------	----------------------	------	---------------