

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A PARTIAL RECIRCULATION DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT REPORT
Jess Ranch Compost Facility Project
SCH #: 2018052056**

October 5, 2020

In accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21092.1 and State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15088.5, Alameda County (the County), as the Lead Agency, is recirculating portions of the Jess Ranch Composting Facility Project Draft EIR (Recirculated Draft EIR) in response to new information. The original Draft EIR for the Proposed Project was circulated on November 24, 2019. The Partial Recirculation document was developed in response to public comments from Alameda County Waste Management Authority (ACWMA) requesting the analysis of an additional reduced project size alternative. Alameda County is recirculating the document to provide the public with a meaningful opportunity to comment on the additional information. The recirculation is “partial” (meaning that only chapters or portions of the prior Draft EIR with new information have been revised and reissued) rather than “full” (meaning that the entire document has been revised and reissued). The overall types and levels of activities that the County could anticipate under the Proposed Project and the potential associated environmental impacts are described below.

Project Title: Jess Ranch Compost Facility Project

Project Applicant: Jess Ranch Property Owners

Project Location: The Proposed Project is located in the eastern portion of unincorporated Alameda County. The Central Valley is immediately to the east. The Project site is located close to the organic waste generating communities of the Bay Area, as well as the potential agricultural soils amendment markets of the Central Valley. The nearest communities include the City of Livermore, approximately eight miles west of the Project site, and the City of Tracy, approximately eight miles east of the Project site.

The Proposed Project would be implemented at the Jess Ranch property located east of the Altamont Pass. The Project site comprises about 30 acres located within the southeastern portion of the 160-acre Jess Ranch property. The Project site is bounded on the north by I-580; to the east, south and west by agricultural lands; and to the southwest by the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way. Figure 1 shows the regional location of the Project site.

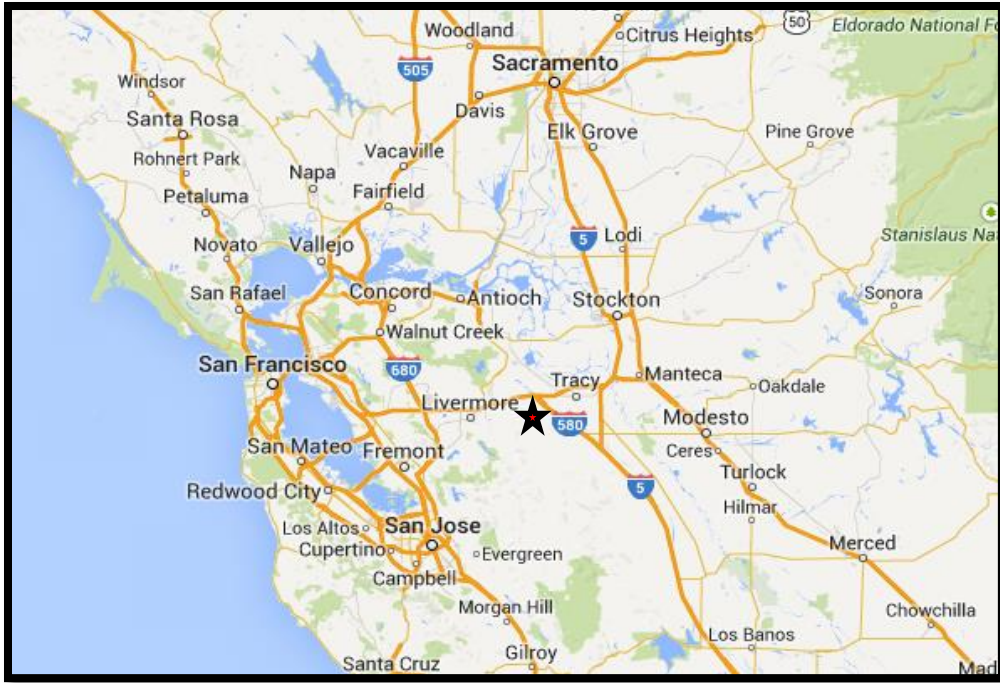


Figure 1 Regional Location Map

Project Description

Proposed Project: The Proposed Project facility, as analyzed in the original Draft EIR, would receive and process organic materials, primarily greenwaste, foodwaste, and biosolids, but would also receive untreated scrap wood, natural fiber products, non-recyclable paper waste, and inert material, such as sediment, gypsum, wood ash, and clean construction debris. Non-hazardous liquid wastes may also be accepted as a substitute for the water that is added for efficient composting. The Project would process organic material utilizing a covered windrow system that would be a combination of aerated static pile (ASP) with either positive or negative aeration, and covered windrow composting technology. Initially, the Project would realize a daily throughput of up to 500 tons per day (TPD), increasing up to a maximum of 1,000 TPD, producing compost-based soil amendments for agricultural, horticultural, erosion control and land reclamation uses. Alameda County is the approving agency for the Conditional Use Permit, which constitutes the Project action or Proposed Project under CEQA.

The Proposed Project could process up to 1,000 TPD of organic material utilizing a windrow system incorporating either negative air or positive air ASP technology. For the unimproved property, construction of the Project would necessitate grading, excavation and soil removal, deposition and compaction of fill material, reuse of excavated soil as fill, transporting and installing materials and equipment, disposal of soil and construction waste, and construction of retention ponds and project access roads. The active composting area would occupy approximately 15 acres, within which curing and screening zones would occupy approximately 8 acres and other operating areas (including access roads) would occupy approximately 7 acres. Active composting windrow piles would vary in height, up to a maximum of 12 feet. A drainage system incorporated into the windrow area would deliver storm runoff from the compost site to a stormwater detention pond. Construction would be completed in two phases: construction of the initial facility with a capacity of 500 TPD (Phase I) followed with expansion of the facility up to 1,000 TPD (Phase II). Figure 2 shows the overview of the proposed site plan.

Reduced Project Size Alternative: The Reduced Project Size Alternative, analyzed in the Recirculated Draft EIR, assumes that the project would process an average of 500 tons per day of organic waste, instead of the 1,000 tons per day project analyzed in the Draft EIR. This reduced-size project would be located on the same property with a reduced-size site footprint. Consistent with the Proposed Project, the Reduced Project Size Alternative would accept primarily green materials, food materials, and biosolids, but may also receive untreated scrap wood, natural fiber products, non-recyclable paper waste, and inert material, such as sediment, gypsum, wood ash, and clean construction debris. Non-hazardous liquid wastes may also be accepted to be used as moisture conditioning in the piles to aid in efficient composting and minimize nuisance conditions.

Construction of the Reduced Project Size Alternative would occur as described for Phase 1 of the Proposed Project; however, the Reduced Project Size Alternative would not progress into Phase 2 (full build-out) as described for the Proposed Project in the Construction section of the Draft EIR.

Proposed Project Analysis: The County, as the lead agency, has the principal responsibility for approving and carrying out the project and ensuring that the requirements of CEQA have been met. As stated, in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21092.1 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5, the County is recirculating portions of the Jess Ranch Composting Facility Project Draft EIR in response to new information. Analysis consistent with the environmental checklist concluded that the Reduced Project Size Alternative could have a potentially significant impact on the following resources, and they would be analyzed as part of the Recirculated Draft EIR: aesthetics, air quality and greenhouse gases, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and seismicity, hazards and human health, hydrology and water quality, land use and agriculture, noise, public services and utilities, transportation and circulation, and tribal cultural resources. The County would certify completion of the Recirculated Draft EIR and, based on consideration of the analysis provided in the Recirculated Draft EIR, would determine whether to approve or disapprove the Proposed Project.

Pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b), comments regarding the scope and environmental analysis must be submitted no later than 30-days after receipt of this notice. The public review period is from October 5 until November 19, 2020. Please send your written comments no later than November 19, 2020 to:

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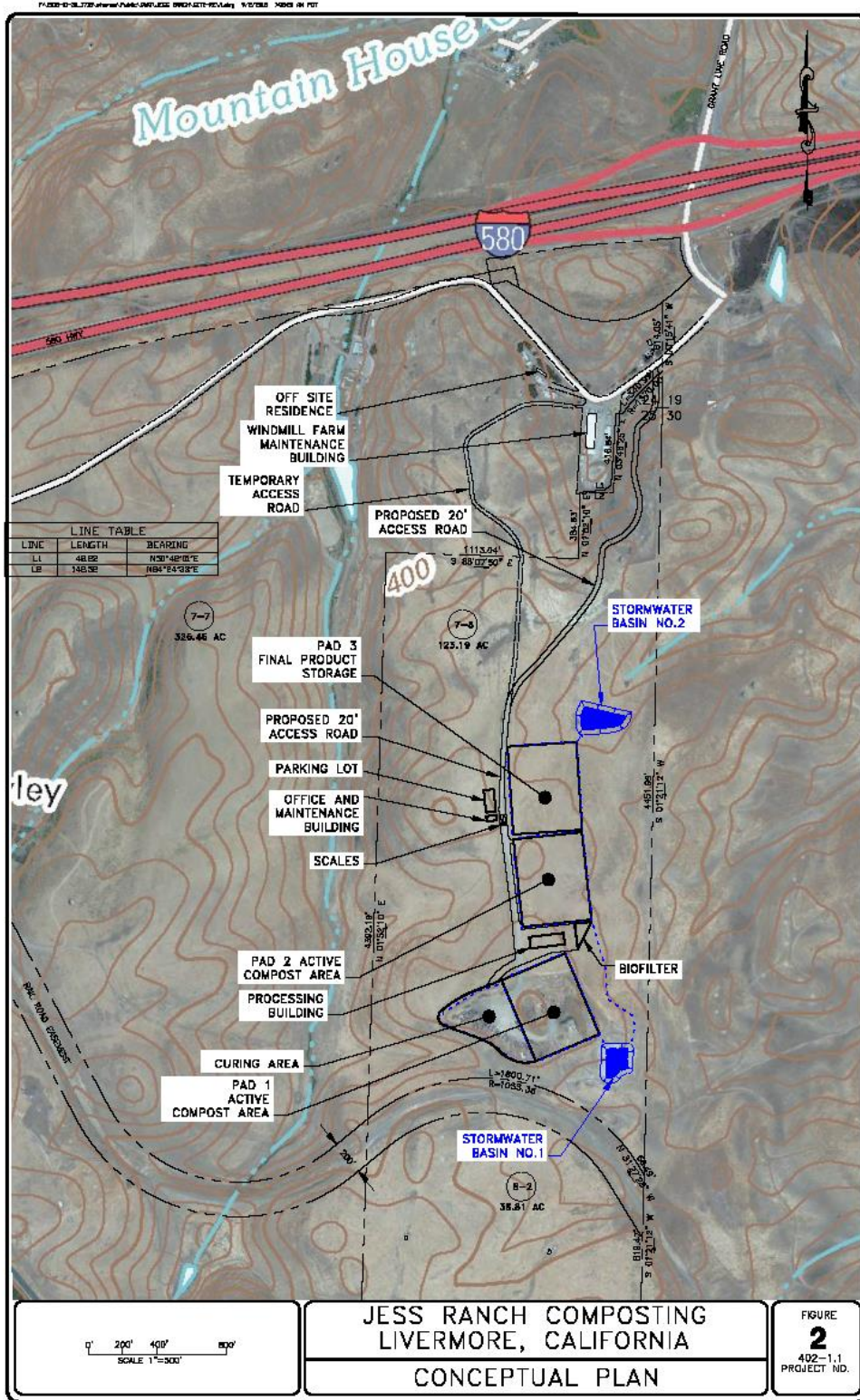


Figure 2 Proposed Site Plan Overview