

**TULARE COUNTY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF  
DRAFT FOCUSED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT,  
VISALIA LANDFILL – COMPOST AND BIOMASS CONVERSION FACILITY  
(SCH #2021020054)**

**Project Title:**

Visalia Landfill – Compost and Biomass Conversion Facility (State Clearinghouse # 2021020054)

**Project Location:**

The proposed Project will be located on the existing Visalia Landfill site on an approximately 36.0-acre portion of the site located at the northeast corner of Avenue 328 and Road 80 approximately six miles northwest of the City of Visalia. The Visalia Landfill site (634 acres) is located entirely within an unincorporated area of Tulare County. Specifically, the proposed Project is located on APN 119-010-039 with a physical address of 7763 Avenue 280, Visalia, California.

State Route 99 is proximate to the site thereby providing regional access to the proposed Project site via Betty Drive/Riggin Avenue; State Route 198 is located approximately two miles south of the site and could provide direct access via Plaza Drive/Road 80 or via the interchange with SR 99.

The site is flat with minimal slope and is currently used as the Visalia landfill. The site is zoned as AE-40 (Exclusive Agriculture-40 Acre minimum) and is proposed to remain as such pending approval of a Special Use Permit, which is the subject matter of this NOP and forthcoming Focused EIR. No expansion of the existing footprint is being proposed. The site is surrounded by intensive agricultural operations. An orchard (currently walnuts) is located north of the landfill property, while row crops are immediately to the east and south (south of Avenue 328). A dairy is located immediately to the west (west of Road 80).

**Project Description:**

The RMA intends to develop and operate a covered aerated static pile (CASP) compost facility to comply with the upcoming SB 1383 regulations. The compost facility will be located on the County's Visalia Landfill property that encompasses approximately 634 acres, of which the compost facility will occupy 36 acres, located in a soil borrow recessed approximately 20 feet below grade. The compost facility will be designed to accept up to 200,000 tons per year (TPY) in increments of 50,000 TPY technology modules and can store up to 200,000 cubic yards on-site of organic material that would have otherwise been landfilled. The compost facility would include installing processing and composting equipment, a 50,000 square foot processing building, compacted compost pads, and a lined pond.

The proposed 2.0 mega-watt (MW) biomass conversion facility will produce electricity, heat and biochar using wood waste as fuel. The facility will utilize approximately 18,000 bone dry tons (BDT) of wood chips per year or 25,000 tons of per year of wet recovered wood waste. The facility is anticipated to produce approximately 20-30 MM BTU of waste heat and approximately 300-600 pounds of biochar per hour and operate 24/7. However; due to maintenance requirements for the equipment it is anticipated that the gas production equipment and internal combustion engine "gensets" will likely operate between 80-90% capacity (or approximately 7,000 and 8,000 hours per year).

**Project Benefits:** The expected benefits of the proposed Project include the following:

1. Provide compost capacity for a transformative organics diversion program in California as required by California legislation;
2. Reduce methane emissions from landfills by removing organics from landfills and by composting new feedstocks and reducing greenhouse gasses (GHG) by sequestering nutrient rich compost in soils;
3. Modify an existing, strategically integrated waste management facility (Visalia Landfill) to accommodate the growing regulatory demand for mixed materials, organic waste, and food waste composting;
4. Receive and compost food wastes derived from commercial and residential sources, increase diversion of organic materials from landfills by expanding the approved feedstock list to include digestates that can be received and processed;
5. List the organics waste feedstocks for the facility, using terms and definitions consistent with new State composting regulations (14 CCR) and the adopted SB 1383 regulations;
6. Allow pre-processing food waste operations at the facility;

7. Continue to provide economic benefits to Tulare County through employment of local residents, by the expansion of operational solid waste management activities and construction of new processing equipment;
8. Compliance with SJVAPCD rules and regulations;
9. Facilitate the accomplishment of AB 341, which directs CalRecycle to increase statewide diversion from landfills to 75% by 2020;
10. Enhance the business community's ability to comply with AB 1826, which as of April 1, 2016 requires businesses that generate a specific amount of organic waste per week must arrange for recycling services for that organic waste in a specified manner (such as composting), to substantially reduce landfill disposal of food wastes; and
11. Create water saving opportunities by using compost to enhance agricultural soil.

**Potentially Significant Environmental Impact:** The Project's potentially significant environmental impacts include: Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology, Hydrology and Water Quality, Transportation/Traffic, and Tribal Cultural Resources. Mitigation measures will be recommended, where feasible, to mitigate potentially significant impacts.

**EIR Availability:**

A copy of the Draft Focused EIR will be available for review at the Tulare County Resource Management Agency, 5961 South Mooney Blvd., Visalia, CA 93277, (559) 624-7000, (Monday – Thursday: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm) and (Friday: 9:00 am to 11:00 am).

A copy of the Draft Focused EIR may also be obtained and/or reviewed at the following locations:

Visalia Branch Library	Tuesday through Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
200 West Oak Avenue	Friday: 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Visalia, CA 93291	Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Tulare County Web Site: <https://tularecounty.ca.gov/rma/index.cfm/planning-building/environmental-planning/environmental-impact-reports/visalia-landfill-compost-and-biomass-conversion-facility/>

**Contact for More Information:** Hector Guerra, Chief Environmental Planner (559) 624-7121 (**para Español llame Jose Saenz (559) 624-7102**).

The Draft Focused EIR has a review period of **45** days, starting on **Friday, December 3, 2021**, and ending **Monday, January 17, 2022**, which has been approved by the State of California, Office of Planning and Research. Any written comments on the Draft Focused EIR should be sent to the Tulare County Resource Management Agency at the address noted above, to the attention of: Hector Guerra, Chief Environmental Planner.

After the close of the public comment review period on the Draft Focused EIR established by this notice, this matter will be set for public hearing before the Tulare County Board of Supervisors at a date to be determined later. Notice of the date, time and place for such public hearing will be published and/or mailed as provided by law.

Please take notice that - pursuant to Public Resource Code § 21177, Government Code § 65009, and other applicable law - if you challenge the proposed action described above in court, then you may be limited to raising only those issues or objections you or someone else raised during the public comment period or the public hearing, or in written correspondence delivered to the Tulare County Resource Management Agency within the review period, or to the Planning Commission during the public hearing.

Reed Schenke, Director, Resource Management Agency