



March 22, 2022

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Aimee Halligan, Administrative Manager
Orange County Waste & Recycling
601 N. Ross St., 5th Floor
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Mar 23 2022

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Subject: SCH No. 2022020473 – Proposed Valencia Greenery Composting Operation at the Olinda Alpha Landfill – Orange County (Facility No. 30-AB-0470)

Dear Ms. Halligan:

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.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Orange County Waste & Recycling (OCWR), acting as Lead Agency, has prepared and circulated a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) in order to comply with CEQA and to provide information to, and solicit consultation with, Responsible Agencies in the approval of the proposed project.

OCWR is proposing to construct and operate a composting facility, the Valencia Greenery, at the active Olinda Alpha Landfill (Facility No. 30-AB-0035), which is located at 1942 Valencia Avenue, Brea, CA 92823. Currently, OCWR has implemented an open windrow pilot project tiered as an Enforcement Agency Notification (EAN) at the Olinda Alpha Landfill and is in the approval process with the Local Enforcement Agency to begin a Covered Aerated Static Pile (CASP) pilot project in the near future. Following these pilot projects, the full-scale Valencia Greenery composting facility at the Olinda Alpha Landfill will be constructed and implemented. A maximum of 230 tons per day (TPD) of processed green material (PGM) that was already being received at the landfill will be transferred over to the Valencia Greenery facility. The Valencia Greenery composting facility will be developed on an approximate 9.0-acre pad located at the northeastern portion of the landfill, in an area that is not currently being used for active landfilling. The pad, consisting of asphalt paving (for the perimeter road) or a layer of crushed asphalt concrete (the composting deck) will be placed over the entire landfill area, where the composting will occur, so that there will be no impacts to the underlying waste prism.

The total area of the facility, including the compost pad and all appurtenant structures will be approximately 15.3 acres. The hours of operation will be the same as Olinda Alpha Landfill,

6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The Valencia Greenery will be open on Sundays for composting operations only. The facility will be developed in two phases: Phase I – Open Windrow Composting; and Phase II – CASP Composting. At full capacity, the project will result in 58 average daily trips; Olinda Alpha Landfill generates 677 vehicle trips per day.

The proposed Valencia Greenery will have the ability to accept any green and agricultural material that contains no greater than 1.0 percent of physical contaminants by dry weight and meets maximum contamination requirements. Initially, arriving materials will already have been pre-processed (chipped and ground and contaminants removed) and will be consolidated at the material receiving area prior to deployment into windrows. OCWR plans to ultimately include chipping and grinding as well as a conveyor in the operation to allow for recovery of other types of uncontaminated compostable organic materials from the landfill (i.e., wood waste). Eventually food waste may also be included into the feedstock during Phase 2 operations (up to 50% of the feedstock). The proposed composting facility will allow the County and incorporated cities to divert organic waste materials from landfill disposal, in compliance with recent State mandates.

COMMENTS

Hours

The MND indicates the hours of operation will be the same as the Olinda Alpha Landfill, 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday and will be open on Sundays for composting operations only. The current Solid Waste Facility Permit for Olinda Alpha Landfill includes hours for the receipt of refuse from 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday and ancillary operations (Construction and Maintenance) 24 hours Monday through Sunday. Will the receipt of material be 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday? Will there be any ancillary hours (e.g., construction, maintenance, processing material, windrow turning, etc.) beyond 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Sunday? Please describe and analyze for any ancillary hours for the project.

Solid Waste Regulatory Oversight

The Orange County Environmental Health Division, Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) is responsible for providing regulatory oversight of solid waste handling and disposal activities, including inspections and permitting. Please contact the LEA, Lauren Robinson, at 714.433.6011 or by e-mail at LRobinson@ochca.com to discuss solid waste regulatory requirements for the proposed project.

CONCLUSION

CalRecycle staff thanks the Lead Agency for the opportunity to review and comment on the MND and hopes that this comment letter will be useful to the Lead Agency in preparing the Final MND and in carrying out their responsibilities in the CEQA process.

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

MND for Valencia Greenery (30-AB-0470)

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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 916.341.6363 or by e-mail at Megan.Emslander@calrecycle.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Megan Emslander". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Megan Emslander, Environmental Scientist
Permitting & Assistance Branch – South Unit
Waste Permitting, Compliance & Mitigation Division
CalRecycle

cc: Ben Escotto, Supervisor
Permitting & Assistance Branch – South Unit

Lauren Robinson, Program Manager
Orange County LEA