



**Status Report On Staff Review Of Board
Regulations For Alternative Daily Cover, Food
And Green Waste Composting, Farm And Ranch
Composting, Compostable Material Land
Application, And Three-Part Test**

**Permitting and Compliance Committee
September 8, 2009**

Strategic Directive 8.3

Review regulations to ensure that they are:

- grounded in the best available science
- address changing market conditions
- take advantage of developing technologies

6 Priority Areas

1. Composting - Food waste
2. Alternative Daily Cover (ADC)
3. Beneficial Use
4. Farm and Ranch Composting
5. Three Part Test/Green Material Contamination
6. Emerging Technologies

Process

- Research regulations and issues
- Posted draft white papers for input
- Workshops
 - July 28, 2009 in Sacramento: 100+ participants
 - August 13, 2009 in Riverside: 35+ participants
- Stakeholder comments
- Finalize white papers
- Board presentation on options

White Papers

- Statutory and regulatory history
- Current status
- Identify issues
- Options to address issues
- Implement Board direction

1. Food Waste Composting Issues

1. Requiring a full permit may be too stringent
2. Food material definition may need additional clarity
3. Adding food material contaminants may impact green material facility operations
4. Additional research may be helpful regarding potential impacts
5. Current regulations may not comprehensively address compost safety

2. Alternative Daily Cover Issues

1. Optimum amount, depth, and quality of ADC may benefit from additional research
2. Evaluating ADC compliance is difficult
3. ADC materials may not meet regulatory definitions
4. Additional guidance may be needed for site-specific demonstration projects using MRF and C&D fines

ADC Issues (cont.)

5. Definition of “Green Material” is different than “Processed Green Material”
6. Statute indicates ADC is diversion through recycling
7. Using organic materials to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at landfills is currently being researched
8. DTSC is re-examining Treated Auto Shredder Waste requirements

Next Steps: Food Waste & ADC

- Finalize white papers
- Board presentation on options
- Implement Board direction

3. Beneficial Use

(§ 17855(a)(9))

Beneficial use of compostable materials is an excluded activity. Beneficial use includes, but is not limited to ...land application in accordance with California Department of Food and Agriculture requirements for a beneficial use as authorized by Food and Agricultural Code section 14501 et seq...

How should the distinction between beneficial use of compostable materials and disposal be determined?

Research

- 12 states were surveyed
- 8 California counties were surveyed
- Ventura, Kings and Kern County have had land application
- Kern County is considering an ordinance

Example



4. Farm and Ranch Composting

Agricultural Materials Composting Operations (17856(c)(2))

- Operations limited to 12,500 cubic yards of off-site-generated green material
- Green material accumulation includes feedstock, compost, and chipped and ground materials
- For sites that sell or give away more than 1,000 cubic yards per year

How to account for seasonal variation and the need to store more than 12,500 cubic yards of composted material on site?

Next Steps: Beneficial Use and Farm & Ranch Composting

- Post draft white papers
- Workshops with stakeholders
- Finalize white papers
- Presentation to the Board

5. Three Part Test / Green Material Contamination

On September 16, 2008, the Board approved Cal Poly San Luis Obispo to study models that could be used to improve upon the three part test and to address contamination amounts in green material

Expected Outcomes

Detailed description and analysis of other state and country models

Recommendations on models for California

Analysis of best management practices

Study

- Surveys conducted
 - 28 states responded to recycling survey
 - 37 states responded to green material survey
- California site visits
- Final Report due in December 2009

<http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Organics/EventsInfo/ADCFoodWaste/default.htm#Materials>

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CALIFORNIA
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