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AND ENDING 9/10/ 2026

California Environmental Protection Agency

CalRecycle
Department of
Resources Recycling and Recovery

Gavin Newsom
California Governor
Yana Garcia
Secretary for Environmental Protection
Zoe Heller
CalRecycle Director

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING DATE

July 22, 2026

TO: California Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, State Clearinghouse; California Responsible and Trustee Agencies; Other Interested Public Agencies; and Interested Parties and Organizations

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings

PROJECT: Small and Medium Composting Facilities and Operations Program Environmental Impact Report

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LEAD AGENCY: California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)

REVIEW PERIOD: July 22, 2026, through August 21, 2026

The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), as the Lead Agency, is preparing a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for small and medium composting facilities and operations consistent with the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1046, which is further described below. CalRecycle is requesting identification of the scope and content of environmental issues and information that you or your organization believe should be considered in the PEIR.

PROJECT LOCATION: As shown in Figure 1 below, the Proposed Program would occur throughout the entirety of the State of California.

BACKGROUND: With the passage and implementation of SB 1383 in 2016, CalRecycle, in consultation with CARB, developed a series of goals (and associated regulations) to reduce disposal of organic waste (statewide) by 50 percent of 2014 levels by 2020 and 75 percent by 2025. In addition, a recovery goal of at least 20 percent by 2025 of edible food in the organic waste stream was established. CalRecycle prepared an EIR related to SB 1383 (certified in 2019) that evaluated the expansion and development of large composting facilities throughout the state in response to the established goals. The SB 1383 EIR evaluated the potential impacts of the development and expansion of larger (i.e., greater than 25,000 tons per year [tpy]) composting facilities, as well as other types of waste reduction facilities, throughout the state.

In 2024, CalRecycle prepared an evaluation of current practices and permitting related to the development of small (less than 10,000 tpy) and medium (less than 25,000 tpy) composting facilities that accept agricultural, food, and green material. As identified in that study, the entitlement and environmental review of small and medium composting facilities and operations has been historically approached in many different ways with some facilities non-discretionary (i.e., not a project under CEQA) while others would involve preparation of either a Notice of Exemption, Negative Declaration, or Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to CEQA requirements. This historic approach has led to challenges associated with permitting and development, following initial approval by the local jurisdiction. In order to ensure that the State continues to achieve and exceed SB 1383 targets, it is reasonably foreseeable that the

development of additional small and medium composting facilities and operations is necessary, especially within more rural areas of the state.

PROPOSED PROJECT: CalRecycle is now proposing adoption of a statewide PEIR to assist in the process to approve, site, and develop small and medium compostable material handling facilities and operations throughout the State of California, as required by the Organic Waste Reduction Bill (SB 1046, Laird, Chapter 452, Statutes of 2024). SB 1046 requires CalRecycle to prepare a PEIR to provide a consistent approach and consider impacts associated with construction and operation of small and medium composting facilities and operations statewide. The PEIR is also intended to provide an opportunity that will allow for a more consistent approach to siting and permitting (consistent with Section 15168 of the State CEQA Guidelines). The PEIR may serve as the first-tier analysis for later, more detailed, site-specific environmental reviews as necessary. Lead agencies and responsible agencies such as local land use and planning agencies, local enforcement agencies, and CalRecycle may use the CEQA document in considering subsequent discretionary actions.

ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT: As permitted by Section 15060(d) of the State CEQA Guidelines, CalRecycle has not prepared an Initial Study/Environmental Checklist, as preparation of a PEIR is mandated by SB 1046 (2024). Based on the PEIR description and CalRecycle's understanding of the environmental issues associated with future development of small and medium composting facilities, it is anticipated that the PEIR has the potential to result in environmental effects associated with some or all of the following environmental resource areas, which will be addressed in the PEIR:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gases
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise and Vibration
- Public Services
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire

As the project would be intended to increase composting within the state and would not increase population or result in the removal of substantial housing opportunities within the state, evaluation of potential impacts associated with population and housing, as well as recreation, is not anticipated. Alternatives to be analyzed in the PEIR are to be defined and analyzed consistent with the requirements of CEQA Guidelines, Section 15126.6. The specific project alternatives to be evaluated in the PEIR may include, but are not limited to, the "No PEIR" alternative, as required by CEQA.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS: CalRecycle is soliciting comments from responsible and trustee agencies as well as interested parties as to the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the PEIR. In

accordance with CEQA, agencies are requested to review the Proposed PEIR provided in this Notice of Preparation (NOP) and to provide comments on environmental issues related to the statutory responsibilities of each responsible or trustee agency.

SUBMITTAL OF WRITTEN COMMENTS: In accordance with CEQA Section 15082, this NOP is being circulated for a 30-day comment period. CalRecycle requests that written or typed comments be provided at the earliest possible date, but no later than **August 21, 2026**. Comments may be submitted via the following:

Electronically to: Permittrainingassistance@calrecycle.ca.gov

Or Mail to: Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
Waste Permitting, Compliance, & Mitigation Division
Permitting and Assistance Branch
Attn: Jeffery Esquivel
1001 I Street, MS#10A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Please include the following information in your response:

- For all respondents, please provide name and contact information and identify the environmental information and issues that you believe should be addressed in the PEIR.
- For agency respondents, please provide the name of the responsible individual with contact information (mailing address, e-mail, and telephone number). List any potential permit(s) or approval(s) for the project under your agency's authority and any reasonably foreseeable projects, programs, or plans that may have an overlapping influence with the proposed project.
- Comments provided by email should include "**Small and Medium Composting Facilities Program EIR**" in the subject line and the name and physical address of the commenter in the body of the email.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: Proposed PEIR information materials, including this NOP, can be viewed on the CalRecycle website at: https://calrecycle.ca.gov/swfacilities/permitting/ceqa/. Future CEQA documents, including the PEIR, will also be made available at this webpage and at CalRecycle's Public Notice webpage, https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/publicnotices/.

NOTICE OF SCOPING MEETINGS: CalRecycle will conduct two scoping meetings for the purposes of soliciting written comments from interested parties, responsible agencies, agencies with jurisdiction by law, trustee agencies, and involved federal agencies, as to the appropriate scope and content of the PEIR. The meetings will be held virtually on August 6, 2026. The first meeting is intended for public agencies only and will take place between 3 and 4:30 pm, and the second meeting will be held later for interested members of the public between 6 and 7:30 pm.

To attend either meeting, participants must register here:

Local and State public agencies register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Zjh0phRnQVaCgwoRU4VCfA

Members of the public register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/zq3cCvEqTNa4TdTG7E3BFQ

After registering, participants will receive a link via email to join the appropriate webinar.

Legend

State of California

CalRecycle

NCE

Project Location

N

1 in. = 80 mi.

0 40 80 mi.

FIGURE 1

SOURCE	JOB NUMBER	DRAWN	DATE	REVISED	APPROVED
Google Roads Basemap	1235.03.55	K. Robinson	7/8/2026	-	-

Document Path: P:\Active Projects\CalRecycle - 1235\1235.03.55 - Statewide Small-Medium Composting EIR\GIS\ArcGIS\K.Robinson\Robinson.aprx