



December 5, 2014

Mr. Ken Decio
Senior Integrated Waste Management Specialist
Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
1001 I Street
PO Box 4025
Sacramento, CA 95812-4025

Dear Mr. Decio:

Re. CalRecycle Draft Regulatory Revisions to Title 14 and 27 Regarding Compostable Materials Handling and Transfer/Processing

Dear Ken:

The California Organics Recycling Council (CORC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on CalRecycle's proposed Title 14 and 27 revisions regarding Compostable Materials Handling and Transfer/Processing Regulations. CORC commends and supports CalRecycle in its efforts to update the existing regulations regarding compostable materials and transfer/processing facilities in order to address the changing nature of organic waste handling throughout California, as well as safely enable the needed growth in diversion of this valuable resource to meet the 75% Initiative, Strategic Directive 6.1, and other sustainability goals of the state. CORC is a non-profit organization consisting of industry, government, and other stakeholders who have interest in removing organics from landfills so as to put them to their highest and best use towards sustainable goals. We will limit our comments to two main issues of import to our members, physical contamination limits and land application.

We believe that the currently-proposed physical contamination limits are unjustified, unachievable (given current and foreseeable compost market conditions and available technology), and will cause significant harm to the financial health of composters statewide, stifling industry growth at one of the more critical points in its history, when multiple policy directives point to approximately 10 million tons of organics being removed from landfills over the next decade, material that is likely to take years of concerted outreach, education, and processing and technology improvements to clean up, tremendously increasing the demands on organics processing and composting companies to provide service.

We would prefer that CalRecycle continue to allow market forces to dictate the level of acceptable physical contaminants in finished compost. We do not believe that the proposed 0.1 percent standard is based on either science, practice, or other documented study, nor is it in any way necessary for the protection of public health, safety, and/or the environment. CORC has always and continues to promote high quality markets for compost and appreciates the spirit of what CalRecycle may be trying to do, if not the approach. We are reluctantly supportive of a phased-in standard that allows time for jurisdictions and operators to adjust to the significant potential cost increases you have projected in your economic analysis. Specifically, while we agree that a 0.1% limit on physical contaminants **may** be achievable for green material-only composters, we do not believe that a limit below 0.5% can be met consistently, particularly given the increasing levels of food scraps that are, and will be, used as compost feedstock. We are also aware that there are questions within the analytical lab community as to the repeatability and sampling protocol for such a low standard.

CORC is fully supportive of the current language related to increasing regulatory oversight of the direct land application of uncomposted green material, with some clarification. Land application continues to undermine potential feedstock sources for the organics processing industry, while increasing the potential for spreading pathogens, physical contamination, and invasive pests throughout the state.

CORC has a long-standing commitment to organics recycling. The continued success of organics recycling programs is dependent on achievable standards which protect public health, safety, and the environment while enabling operators to succeed in a highly-competitive market.

Sincerely,



Matthew Cotton
President