



**California Conference
of Directors of
Environmental Health**

December 5, 2014

Mr. Ken Decio
Senior Integrated Waste Management Specialist
Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
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Subject: CalRecycle Draft Regulatory Revisions to Title 14 and 27 Regarding Compostable Materials Handling and Transfer/Processing

Dear Mr. Decio:

The California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health (CCDEH) represents most of the Solid Waste Local Enforcement Agencies in the State of California. CCDEH is appreciative of the opportunity to comment on CalRecycle's proposed revisions to Title 14 and Title 27 regarding Compostable Materials Handling and Transfer/Processing Regulations. An update to the existing regulations regarding compostable materials and transfer/processing facilities is necessary due to the changes in organic waste handling, legislation, and technology. CCDEH supports CalRecycle's efforts to update the regulations.

CCDEH is generally supportive of the draft regulations. However, there are concerns that the proposed physical contamination limits may be unachievable and the ability of the LEAs to determine the physical contamination limits. Therefore, we agree with the California Compost Coalition's December 5, 2014 recommendations as noted below regarding field testing methodology and a phased-in approach for physical contamination limits.

Field testing methodology. *A field testing methodology needs development (along with guidance and/or training) for LEAs to assure field testing conducted produces results which are standardized and repeatable.*

Proposed phased-in approach for Physical Contamination Limit

Prior to implementation of the standard for either material type, the above Sampling and Testing Protocols for laboratory samples and field samples must be adopted. CalRecycle shall engage a stakeholder panel to develop the protocols.

Phased Implementation Schedule – Green Material Compost and Chip and Grind Mulch

Adoption of testing methodologies – December 31, 2017	1%
January 1, 2018 –December 31, 2019	0.5%
January 1, 2020	0.1%

Phased Implementation Schedule – Mixed Material

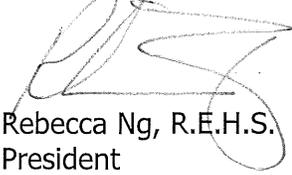
Adoption of testing methodologies – December 31, 2017	2%
January 1, 2018 –December 31, 2019	1%
January 1, 2020	0.5%

Data Collection and Reporting Proposal

All lab testing for physical contaminants would be required at labs participating in the USCC’s Seal of Testing Assurance Program (STA), employing the TMECC method. The benefit of using STA certified labs is that the labs utilize a nationally-accepted standard, and could provide periodic, anonymous reporting of compost and green waste testing data, including the range and mean for physical contaminants, to CalRecycle.

CCDEH thanks you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed regulatory change. We value our long standing partnership with CalRecycle and look forward to working with you in improving our industry.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Ng, R.E.H.S.
President