Permitting a Large Compost Facility in California

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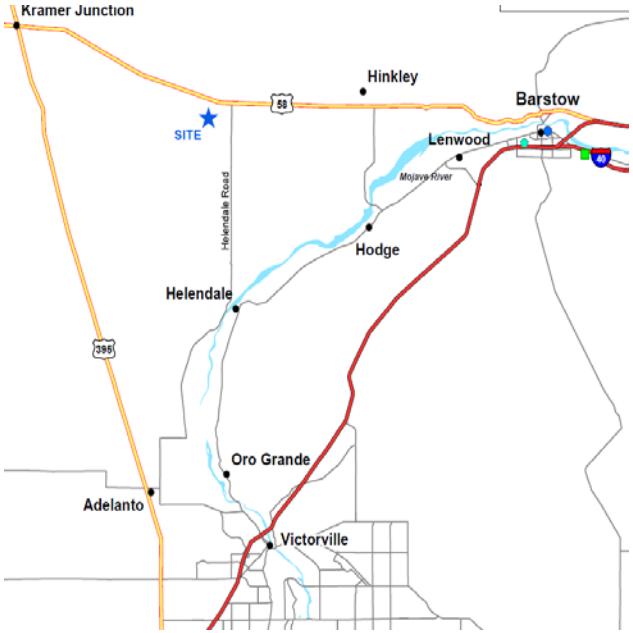
Compost Facility Overview

- Near Barstow, CA
- Siting/Permitting 2004-2012
- Opened in June 2012
- Open Windrow Composting
- 400,000 tons/year of biosolids, green material & inert material
- 80-acres on 160 acre parcel
- 8 miles from the nearest community
- “Close to the generators”
- Less expensive than current alternatives



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Permit Overview & Timeline

Permit/Approval	Description	Timeline
Initial Study (IS)	CEQA	2005-2006
Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	CEQA	2005-2010
Conditional Use Permit (CUP)	SB County	2005-2010
Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR)	RWQCB	2005-2010
California Department of Fish & Game (CDFG)	Endangered Species	2006-2011
U.S. Fish & Wildlife (USFWS)	Endangered Species	2006-2011
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	Right of Way / Endangered Species	2006-2011
CalRecyle/LEA	Solid Waste Compost Permit	2005-2007
MDAQMD	Equipment Specific Permit	2012, 2015
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Jurisdictional Determination	2007
San Bernardino County CUPA	Certified Unified Program Agency Annual Permit	Annual
Department of Food and Agriculture	Weighmaster License	Annual
Special Use Permit - San Bernardino County	Permit to Operate Facility	Annual
California Department of Food and Agriculture Compliance Agreement	CCR 3435	Annual
Department of Industrial Relations 1	Permit to Operate Air Pressure Tank	Annual

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CEQA Timeline

- Commence work on IS & EIR 2005
- EIR Adopted February 2007
- EIR Challenged March 2007
- Judge Issued Order April 2008
  - Identify and Analyze Water Supply
  - Further Analyze Economics of Enclosure
  - GHG analysis
- Final SEIR Adopted December 2009

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RWQCB – WDR (Title 27)

- "Waste" Classification
  - Pursuant to CWC, section 13050,
  - Discharge a Designated Waste
- Waste Pile - Compost Pad (Engineered Pad)
- Surface Impoundments (2)
  - 1,000 year rain event, sumps & lysimeters
- Monitoring Well Network
- Financial Assurance (Closure and Corrective)
- Completed March 2010

RWQCB – General Order 2016

- State Water Board adopted a General Order for Composting Operations
- NOI Filed for coverage under General Order
- Rescission of WDR
  - Design exceeded requirements
- Return Financial Assurance
- Completed 2016

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Endangered Species

- Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)
  - Desert Tortoise (USFWS & CDFG)
  - Mohave Ground Squirrel (CDFG)
- BLM - ROW, Lead Agency
- CDFG Incidental Take Permit
- USFWS Biological Opinion
- Mitigation & Monitoring
  - 86.5 acres = 259.5 acres offset 3:1
  - Exclusion Fencing (6.5 miles)

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MDAQMD

- Proposed Compost Rule (1133)
- Generator Permit to Operate
  - Tier 4
- Screen Permit to Operate
  - Tier 3

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- Operate the City of Phoenix's new Turned Aerated Pile (TAP) composting facility (green and food waste)
- 220,000 tons per year
- Positive and negative aeration (biofilter)
- Capture and reuse all water onsite

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Questions

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