NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

DATE: October 2, 2026

PROJECT: Small and Medium Composting Facilities and Operations Program Environmental Impact Report (State Clearinghouse Number 2026070901)

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

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

REVIEW PERIOD: October 2, 2026 through November 16, 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency, has prepared a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for small and medium composting facilities and operations consistent with the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1046. The Program EIR has been prepared to analyze and disclose the potential environmental effects of the proposed program, identify mitigation measures to reduce significant environmental effects, and identify feasible alternatives to avoid or minimize significant environmental effects. CalRecycle has prepared this Notice of Availability (NOA) to notify responsible and trustee agencies, interested parties, and the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation of the availability of the Draft Program EIR for public review, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15087.

PROGRAM LOCATION: The program area includes the State of California. Existing and permitted composting facilities and operations can be found in CalRecycle's Solid Waste Information System (SWIS) database. However, the exact locations of future small and medium compost facilities and operations cannot be known yet. Each future project will depend on local land-use decisions, community preferences, and economic conditions. Because of these uncertainties, predicting where new facilities and operations will be approved, or what they will look like, would be speculative. For this reason, this EIR evaluates the potential for new small and medium composting facilities and operations to be located anywhere in California.

PROGRAM SUMMARY: CalRecycle has prepared a statewide EIR to assist in the process to approve, site, and develop small and medium composting facilities and operations throughout the State of California, as required by the Organic Waste Reduction Bill (SB 1046, Laird, Chapter 452, Statutes of 2024). The EIR 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 EIR 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. The program, as defined in the EIR, would allow for the development of additional small and medium composting facilities and operations within the state.

SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: The Draft Program EIR identified potentially significant impacts associated with the construction and operation of small and medium compost facilities and operations with implementing regulations for aesthetics; air quality; archaeological, historical and Tribal cultural resources; biological resources; noise; and transportation. Impacts related to agriculture and forestry resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, and wildfire were identified as having significant but mitigable impacts.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING: CalRecycle will host a public information meeting for the purposes of soliciting comments on the EIR from interested parties, responsible agencies, agencies with jurisdiction by law, trustee agencies, and involved federal agencies. The meetings will be held virtually on October 22, 2026 from 1:30-3:30 pm.

To attend the virtual meeting, participants must register here:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/M4aI2l1iRdOIyDJbINdJ7w

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

SUBMITTAL OF WRITTEN COMMENTS: In accordance with CEQA Section 15087, this NOA is being circulated for a 45-day comment period. CalRecycle requests that written comments be provided at the earliest possible date, but no later than **November 16, 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.
- For agency commenters, please provide the name of the agency and responsible individual with contact information (mailing address, e-mail, and telephone number).
- Comments provided by email should include **"Small and Medium Composting Facilities and Operations Program EIR**" in the subject line and the name and physical address of the commenter in the body of the email.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The EIR and NOA can be viewed online at:
https://calrecycle.ca.gov/swfacilities/permitting/ceqa/pier/. Future CEQA documents, including the Final

Program EIR, will also be made available at this webpage and at CalRecycle's Public Notice webpage (https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/publicnotices/).

HAZARDS: As required by Section 15087 of the State CEQA Guidelines, this notice discloses the presence of sites enumerated under Section 65962.5 of California Government Code. However, given the statewide nature of this EIR, a comprehensive inventory of all hazardous materials sites identified pursuant to Section 65962.5 of California Government Code is not practical or feasible. It is recognized that sites listed pursuant to this requirement may be located at or near individual projects considered under the program.