



Solid Waste Local Enforcement Agency

Revised Full Solid Waste Facility Permit for Bee Canyon Greenery

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q. Who is the Orange County Solid Waste Local Enforcement Agency (LEA)?

A. The Orange County Health Care Agency (HCA) Environmental Health Division is the Solid Waste Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) in Orange County designated by the Orange County Board of Supervisors and certified by the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), which delegates authority to enforce State solid waste laws and regulations.

Q. What does the LEA do?

A. The LEA enforces State solid waste regulations for active and closed landfills, transfer-processing facilities, green waste operations, and limited volume transfer operations by:

- Issuing permits with limits/conditions pertaining to solid waste handling, processing and storage
- Conducting routine inspections
- Investigating complaints
- Issuing Enforcement Orders when needed
- Coordinating with other regulatory agencies
- Providing regulatory assistance

Q. What is the permit process for a revised solid waste facility permit (SWFP)?

A. Below are the steps the LEA takes on receipt of an application package for a revised SWFP:

1. The LEA has 30 days from receipt, to consider if the application is complete and correct.
2. If complete and correct, the LEA accepts the application and notifies CalRecycle and the Regional Water Quality Control Board within five (5) days of the decision.
3. Within 60 days of receipt of the application, the LEA must conduct a public informational meeting to receive public input on the proposed revised permit.
4. Within 60 days of accepting the application and after the informational meeting, the LEA prepares and submits to CalRecycle the proposed revised permit along with the public's comments from the informational meeting and the LEA's response.
5. CalRecycle staff to conduct a pre-permit inspection of the facility.
6. CalRecycle will consider the proposed permit as an agenda item during their public meeting.
7. CalRecycle will either concur or object to the LEA's issuing of the proposed revised SWFP and send a letter to the LEA.
8. The LEA will issue a new signed permit to the operator if and when CalRecycle concurs with the permit.

Q. How can I review or obtain a copy of the application package for the revised permit?

A. A copy of the application package is available for public review by appointment in the LEA office located at 1241 East Dyer Road, Ste. 120, Santa Ana, CA 92705. Please contact Environmental Health Division at (714) 433-6000 or by email at ehhealth@ochca.com to make an appointment. The application is also available on LEA website: <https://www.ochealthinfo.com/eh/more/sm/sw/>.

Q. When will the LEA forward the revised permit to CalRecycle?

A. The LEA will prepare the revised SWFP and forward it to CalRecycle for review and concurrence by October 31, 2023.

Q. When will CalRecycle consider the revised permit?

A. The proposed permit will be on the CalRecycle's public monthly meeting agenda to be conducted between November – December 2023 timeframe. CalRecycle's monthly public meetings fall on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. For more information about the meeting details, please contact LEA Program Supervisor, Shyamala Rajagopal at (714) 433-6270 or by e-mail srajagopal@ochca.com.

Q. How can I submit comments on the revised permit?

A. If you would like to comment on the proposed permit action, you may do so at the meeting or send your written comments by US mail to HCA, Environmental Health Division, P.O. Box 25400 Santa Ana, CA 92799, Attn.: Solid Waste Program – LEA or via email to LEA contact Jennifer Nguyen, jnguyen2@ochca.com or (714) 433-6274 by October 13, 2023.

Q. Can I appeal the LEA and/or CalRecycle's decision to issue the revised solid waste facility permit?

A. After issuance of the revised SWFP to the Bee Canyon Greenery, that action can be appealed to the Solid Waste Hearing Officer. Please contact Shyamala Rajagopal at (714) 433-6270 or via e-mail srajagopal@ochca.com for information on the appeal process.

Q. Whom do I contact regarding an odor complaint at Bee Canyon Greenery?

A. If you have an odor complaint to report, you can submit an online complaint to Orange County Waste & Recycling (OCWR) at <https://ocwrnsp.ocgov.com/Complaint/Create?LandfillId=7>. You can also contact the Solid Waste LEA Complaint Hotline, (714) 433-6404 or submit an online complaint at the HCA's website, <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/eh/home/complaints>. You may also contact CalRecycle at their online system at <https://calepacomplaints.secure.force.com/complaints/> or South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) online complaint system at <http://www3.aqmd.gov/webappl/complaintssystemonline/NewComplaint.aspx>.

Q. How often are solid waste facilities/operations inspected by the LEA?

A. Active landfills, transfer-processing facilities, and green waste facilities with full or registration permits are inspected monthly by the LEA. Other green waste operations, limited volume transfer operations, and closed landfills are inspected either quarterly or yearly. Bee Canyon Greenery composting facility is currently being inspected monthly as it is a full SWFP and will continue to be inspected monthly with the proposed SWFP revision.

Q. Where can I obtain a copy of the Solid Waste regulations?

A. You can review and download State Solid Waste regulations (Titles 14 and Title 27 of California Code of Regulations) from the CalRecycle website <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/>.

Q. What are some of the protocols followed at the landfill and green waste facilities to minimize odors?

A. At Frank R. Bowerman Landfill, the primary means of controlling odors is the application of daily cover over the active working face at the end of each operating day. For the Bee Canyon Greenery, according to their Odor Impact Minimization Plan (OIMP), a few methods to minimize odors include feedstock management, temperature and moisture control, eliminating ponding of water, and rejecting or disposing of extremely odorous loads. The proposed composting methodology is covered aerated static pile (CASP), which uses a tarp system equipped with a blower to induce forced aeration through the compost piles. During the active composting phase, the compost remains covered, which will mitigate the odor emission.

Specific Project Questions

Q. Why is Bee Canyon Greenery composting being proposed at Frank R. Bowerman Landfill?

A. CalRecycle has adopted new regulations throughout the State of California that aim to keep organic waste out of the landfills and recover it as a resource. Waste haulers previously processed chipped and ground green material and brought it to the landfill to use as daily cover for the buried refuse at the landfill. However, starting January 2020, processed green material used as alternative daily cover was no longer counted as diversion credit due to Assembly Bill (AB) 1594. Bee Canyon Greenery proposes to compost green material, agricultural material, food material, vegetative food material, and manure, to reduce in landfill disposal and create a marketable product that can be beneficially used later. Further, converting the source separated organic wastes into compost that comes from residential curbside pickups will also assist cities and unincorporated areas in the County of Orange in meeting state mandates for recycling of organic waste materials as per Senate Bill (SB) 1383.

Q. What is Senate Bill (SB) 1383?

A. SB1383 was passed in September 2016 as part of California’s strategy to combat short-lived climate pollutants such as methane produced from organic wastes, including green waste and food waste, that has been buried as refuse in the landfills. The bill charged CalRecycle to develop and adopt regulations for local jurisdictions to achieve the specified targets for reducing organic waste in the landfills. By reducing organic wastes being buried in the active landfills, it will reduce the methane production that contributes to the climate pollutants and thus affecting public health and safety. SB 1383 establishes targets to achieve a 50 percent reduction in the level of the statewide disposal of organic waste from the 2014 level by 2020 and a 75 percent reduction by 2025.

For more information on SB 1383 regulations, please visit CalRecycle’s SB 1383 Education and Outreach Resources at:

<https://calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp/education/#:~:text=The%20SB%201383%20regulations%20require,and%20other%20food%20recovery%20organizations.>

Q. What changes are being proposed in this permit?

A. Bee Canyon Greenery is an existing permitted composting facility that is co-located within the Frank R. Bowerman Landfill. It currently uses the open windrow method to compost green and agricultural materials, strictly of plant origin. In this proposal, the facility proposes to include additional feedstock materials (manure and food waste) for the covered aerated static pile (CASP) technology. With the additional feedstock materials and composting technology, the facility proposes to increase the tonnage from 437 tons per day to 876 tons per day, and increase the operational area to 37.3 acres from 30 acres, which is within the landfill boundary.

Q. What are some protocols followed at the facility to minimize odors?

A. A few methods to minimize odors include feedstock management, temperature and moisture control, and rejecting odorous loads. The proposed composting technology CASP uses a tarp system to cover the active piles which minimizes odor emissions. The Odor Impact Minimization Plan (OIMP) is included in the Report of Composting Site Information (RCSI) document prepared for Bee Canyon Greenery composting operations that identifies operating procedures and design considerations to minimize odors, which will be checked by LEA as part of monthly inspections.

Q. How will the proposed permit revision affect traffic?

A. Prior to January 2020, Frank R. Bowerman Landfill was accepting approximately 850 tons per day of processed green material to be used as alternative daily cover (to cover the refuse at the end of the operating day). The landfill will divert all incoming source separated organic waste loads to the Bee Canyon Greenery for composting. At the maximum permitted tonnage of 876 tons per day, Bee Canyon Greenery will be accepting an additional 26 tons per day, equating to approximately 2 new two-way truck traffic a day.