



Potential Community Compost Hub: Siting Constraints



**Los Angeles County Public Works
Environmental Programs Division**

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Agenda

- Project Introduction
 - Community Compost Hub
- Site Selection Criteria
- Potential Compost Hub Locations
- Potential Partners
- Siting Constraints
 - Land Use/Zoning Ordinance
- Q&A



Tetra Tech – Solid Waste West



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Community Compost Hub (Community Composting Activity)



Site Selection Criteria – Regulatory Criteria

- California Department of Resources and Recovery (CalRecycle)
- Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB)
- South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)
- Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (DRP) (Zoning Ordinance and Land Use)



South Coast
Air Quality
Management District

LA COUNTY
PLANNING

Site Selection Criteria – CalRecycle



- Community Composting Activity
- Excluded Regulatory Tier
- CCR Section 17855(a)(4) Composting
 - Green Material
 - Agricultural Material
 - Food Material
 - Alone or In Combination



If the Total Amount of Feedstock and Compost On-Site at Any One Time Does Not Exceed 100 Cubic Yards and 750 Square Feet.

Site Selection Criteria – SB 279 Compostable Materials



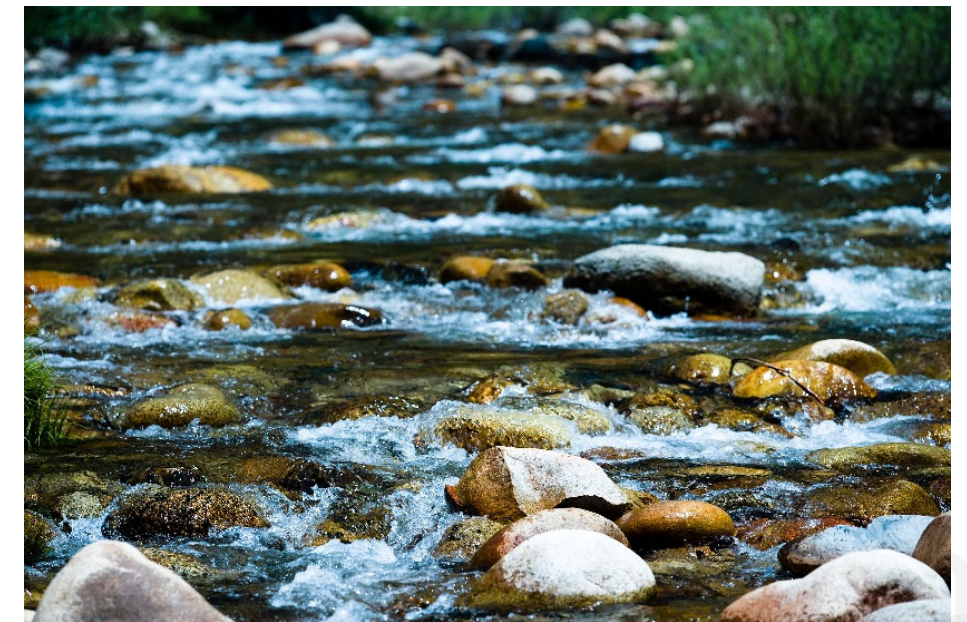
- SB 279 - approved by Governor on 10/11/25
- Allows some Community Composters, Urban Farms, and School Farms to:
 - Compost up to 200 Cubic Yards
 - Eliminates the Maximum Square-Foot Condition



Site Selection Criteria – LA RWQCB



- Compost General Order (Order WQ 2020-0012-DWQ)
 - General Waste Discharge Requirements for Commercial Composting Operations
- Finding 17 – Only Applies to Composting Operations that Receive, Process, and Store at Least 500 Cubic Yards of Materials at a Time
- Below CalRecycle's Excluded Tier



Site Selection Criteria – SCAQMD



- Rule 1133 Composting Related Operations
– General Administrative Requirements
- Subdivision (g) Exemptions
- Community Composting is Exempt from the Requirements of Rule 1133
- No Need to Register
- Emissions Generated are Exempt from Air Quality Registration Requirements



Site Selection Criteria – Los Angeles County Public Works



- Site Selection Criteria:
 - Locate in Unincorporated Los Angeles County
 - On or Near Multi-Family Dwellings
 - On Publicly Owned Property
 - Proper Zoning
 - Public Access
 - Complementary to a Community Garden
 - Sufficient Land Area
 - Availability of Water
 - Electricity
 - Flat land



Potential Compost Hub Locations

- Focus on Identifying Sites that are Near County Owned Housing and Parks
- Most Sites are on LA County Parks and Recreation Land
- One Site in the City of Los Angeles



Potential Partners

- County Facilities
 - Carmelitos Community Housing Development
 - Charter Oak Park
 - El Cariso Park
 - San Dimas Canyon Nature Center
 - Schabarum Park
- City Facilities
 - Mar Vista Gardens
- Institutions
 - LA County Parks and Recreation
 - LA Department of Water and Power
 - City of LA Department of Parks and Recreation



Potential Partners



- Community Organizations
 - Los Angeles Community Garden Council
 - California Alliance for Community Composting LA Chapter
 - Food Access Los Angeles
 - LA Conservation Corps
- Environmental Organizations
 - LA Compost
 - Ocean View Farms
 - Compostable
 - TAWA Compost
 - Tree People
- Equipment Suppliers
 - Sustainable Generation
 - Green Mountain Technologies
 - ReoTemp
 - WormGear
 - Urban Worm Company
 - metroSTOR



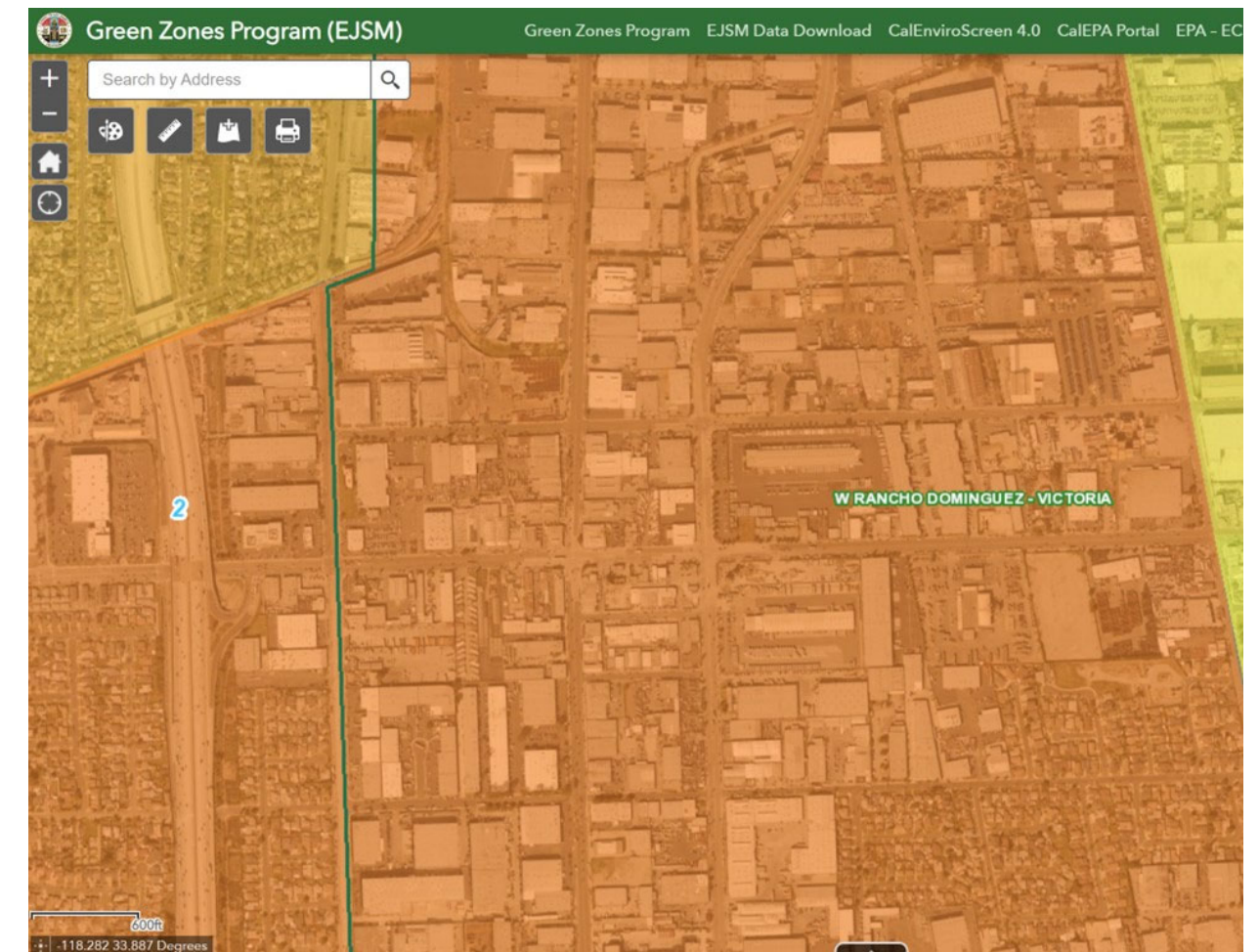
Siting Constraints – Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (DRP)

- Los Angeles County Municipal Code (LACMC)
- Title 22 Planning and Zoning
- Title 20 Utilities
- Consultation with Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (DRP)



Siting Constraints – Title 22 Planning and Zoning

- A “Composting Facility” is a site that handles the processing and transfer of compostable materials.
 - In accordance with the definitions of composting facility per 14 CCR Section 17852(a)(11)
- If Established as an “Accessory Use”
 - Limited to processing materials generated on-site
 - Conducted within an Enclosed Structure



Siting Constraints – Title 20 Utilities Definitions

- LACMC Section 20.91.030(D)
(Community Composting)
 - “Community Composting”
has the meaning set forth in
14 CCR, Section 18982(a)(8)



Siting Constraints – Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (DRP) Consultation

- “Allowed as an Accessory Use in Instances Where the Primary Use Generates Organic Waste On-Site...”
- Lack of Explicit Coverage
- Indirectly Prevents or Restricts the Siting of Community Composting “Activities”



Siting Constraints – Natural Resources Defense Council & Environmental Law Institute



- Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) & Environmental Law Institute (ELI)
 - Developed a Model Municipal Zoning Ordinance
 - To Assist Municipalities with Removing Potential Zoning Code Barriers
 - Composting is Identified as a Permissible Land Use
 - Distinct from Industrial Scale Composting



Siting Constraints – City of Pomona and County of San Diego



- City of Pomona
 - Ordinance No. 4345 adopted July 1, 2024
 - Removal of Barriers for Community Composting on and Urban Farm
 - Small Urban Farms (less than 3 acres in area) are Permitted as a Land Use in all Zones
- County of San Diego
 - Exemplary Zoning Code
 - “Community Garden Composting” is Defined (20 Cubic Yard Maximum)
 - Does Not Require a Permit
 - Can be Located where Active Agricultural Operation is Present, Including All Residential Zones



**CITY OF
POMONA, CA**



Questions?



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