



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Prima Deshecha Landfill Proposed Capistrano Greenery Composting Operation

Q: Why is OCWR planning to implement composting at the Prima Deshecha Landfill at this time?

A: The planned composting operation responds to new legislation that aims to keep organic waste out of the landfills and instead recover and repurpose it as a resource. Currently, OC Waste & Recycling (OCWR) receives greenwaste that comes from residential curbside bins from throughout Orange County. Waste haulers or other companies chip, grind and clean up this greenwaste, then bring it to the landfill. This processed green material, called PGM, is primarily used as an alternative daily cover instead of soil to cover the refuse every day. Beginning in 2020, two pieces of legislation (SB 1383 and AB 1594) will cause PGM used as ADC to no longer count as diversion. By composting it, OCWR will be reducing greenhouse gas emissions, saving valuable landfill capacity and creating a renewable resource that can be used as a soil amendment and for erosion control. In addition, converting the greenwaste into compost will count as recycling, which will assist cities to achieve the state-mandated recycling targets.

Q: Will there be any major changes from the existing landfill operation?

A: No, the proposed Capistrano Greenery composting operation will not result in any major changes when compared to the existing landfill operation. Greenwaste that is currently disposed in the landfill or used as alternative daily cover (“ADC”) will instead be directed to the proposed Capistrano Greenery composting operation.

Q: Will the proposed composting operation generate any noticeable odors that I will be able to smell from my home?

A: No, the location for the proposed Capistrano Greenery composting operation is located more than 1,100 feet from the closest homes. More importantly, OCWR will implement several odor and operational control measures and project design features, in compliance with all State, regional and local regulations and requirements, to ensure that the proposed composting operation does not result in any significant odor impacts to the community.

Q: What will the project look like?

A: A full-scale operation will consist of a series of greenwaste piles formed in linear rows managed in a controlled environment. The piles are called windrows. The dimensions of the windrows at the Capistrano Greenery will be approximately 12 feet in height, 20 feet wide and 100 feet long.

Q: What happens after the windrows are formed?

A: Compost and safety-trained employees will monitor, turn and water the windrows facilitating the natural process of decomposing, until the material becomes nutrient rich compost.

Q: What is the proposed size and capacity of the composting operation?

A: The Capistrano Greenery composting operation will be permitted to receive a maximum of 204 tons per day and will be located on a footprint of approximately 18 acres.

Q: How long will it take to make the compost, from the time the green waste is brought to the site until the finished compost is delivered to end markets?

A: The composting process takes approximately five months to complete. This includes approximately three months for the active composting phase, where the compost is frequently turned and watered, and a two-month curing phase, where the compost stabilizes and becomes a finished compost product.

Q: What kind of environmental documents are required for this project under the California Environmental Quality Act? Can I get copies of the documents? What do I do if I want to provide comments?

A: In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), OCWR has prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the proposed Capistrano Greenery composting operation. This document is located on the OCWR website at www.oclandfills.com. OCWR invites the public to provide any comments on the MND. OCWR will accept comments on the MND from January 10 – February 10, 2020. Submit comments to Kristina Hamm, Public Communications Manager, at Kristina.Hamm@ocwr.ocgov.com or by mail to OC Waste & Recycling (c/o Kristina Hamm), 601 N. Ross Street, 5th Floor, Santa Ana, CA 92701. Kristina can also be reached by phone at (714) 834-4059.

Q: Can't composting operations catch fire? Does the proposed project have the ability to start a fire that could potentially pose a fire hazard to nearby homes?

A: If not properly managed, composting operations can result in on-site fires as the greenwaste heats up and begins to decompose. However, OCWR's operational plan exceeds the minimums for fire safety and compliance. We will monitor the operation consistently, take temperatures measurements, water and turn the windrows frequently. The composting operation will be surrounded by a large soil stockpile that will act as a large fire break (along with the rest of the Prima Landfill). In addition, OCWR has worked very closely with the Orange County Fire Authority to make sure that the composting operation will meet its requirements for water lines, water pressure and fire hydrants to ensure fire safety for the composting operation.

Q: How many new truck trips will the composting operation generate?

A: The greenwaste is already being received at the landfill, so delivery of the material will generate very few new truck trips. The proposed Capistrano Greenery will generate approximately 15 new two-way truck trips per day, primarily to transport finished compost to end markets.

Q: Will the public be able to drive to the landfill and buy compost?

A: At this time, the answer would be no. The product planned aligns more with the types of compost used in the commercial sector, such as parks, public works/flood control departments, roadway agencies, and potentially for agricultural and nursery uses. If offering a product suitable for home use becomes an opportunity, we will notify residents. Residents can also contact their waste hauler to inquire about the availability of compost.

Do you have more questions? You can submit questions online, email or call:

CLICK:

OCLandfills.com

RESOURCES

CALL:

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Contact Prima Deshecha Landfill