



**San Joaquin Valley**  
**AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT**

**Draft New Rule 4566  
(Organic Material Composting  
Operations)**

**(District Project CEQA # 20100641)**

**Initial Study and Draft Negative Declaration**

**July 2011**

**SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT  
GOVERNING BOARD 2011**

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**AIR POLLUTION CONTROL OFFICER:**

SEYED SADREDIN



**A. PROJECT BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**1. Project Title:**

Draft New Rule 4566 (Organic Material Composting Operations)

**2. Lead Agency Name and Address:**

San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District  
1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue  
Fresno CA 93726-0244

**3. Contact Person:**

CEQA: Mark Montelongo  
(559) 230-6000

Permits: Koshoua Thao  
(559) 230-6000

**4. Project Location:**

This rule applies to composting operations, which include composting and/or stockpiling of organic material at a composting facility located within the boundaries of the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (see Exhibit 1, Map of District boundaries).

**5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:**

San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District  
1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue  
Fresno CA 93726-0244

**6. Assessor's Parcel Number:**

Not applicable to this project.

**7. General Plan Designation/Zoning:**

Not applicable to this project.



**Exhibit 1**  
**San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District Boundaries**





## **8. Project Description:**

Consistent with the *2007 Ozone Plan* commitments, Draft New Rule 4566 would establish VOC limits, including operational and administrative requirements, for organic material composting operations. Stockpile operations at composting operations would also be subject to draft rule requirements. Organic material is defined in the rule as food material, green material, or a mixture thereof, and may include wood material and a total of less than 100 wet tons per year of biosolids, animal manure, or poultry litter. Operations composting more than 100 wet tons of biosolids are subject to District Rule 4565 for that portion of the organic material.

While composting of organic material is one of the desired alternative methods to divert reusable material from landfills, there are potential impacts to the air quality within the SJVAB. However, the District also recognizes that several composting operations are already taking measures to help reduce emissions through responsible composting practices.

During composting operations, active composting is a significant part of the process in which the compost feedstock is rapidly decomposing. VOC emissions occur in the highest amounts during the active phase. Curing composting follows the active phase and is characterized by lower VOC emission rates. Draft New Rule 4566 utilizes the significant difference in emissions between the active phase and curing phase as a means to focus the VOC reduction efforts to a shorter period of the compost development process. This focus reduces the cost of implementation of the rule while ensuring sufficient VOC reduction effectiveness.

Draft New Rule 4566 would establish VOC emission reduction requirements on the basis of actual throughputs, rather than the maximum allowable capacity limits, for the composting operations.

- Composting operations with an organic material receiving volume of less than 200,000 wet tons per year of organic material would be subject to the watering system requirements.
- Composting operations with an organic material receiving volume of greater than or equal to 200,000 tons per year and less than 750,000 tons per year would be subject to both the watering system and the finished compost cover requirements.
- Composting operations with total throughput of 750,000 tons per year or more would be subject to the engineered control systems.



The draft rule further reduces VOC emissions from the composting operations by limiting the number of days that the organic material could be stockpiled.

- Composting operations with less than 100,000 tons per year of organic material would be subject to a 10-day stockpile requirement.
- Composting operations with 100,000 tons per year or more of the material would be subject to a three-day stockpile requirement. Please refer to Section III (Current and Proposed Regulations) of this report for additional information.

Table 1 shows the draft rule requirements for composting operations, based on total throughput.

<b>Table 1 – Summary of Draft Rule 4566 Requirements</b>		
<b>Throughput Classification</b>	<b>Draft Requirements</b>	
	<b>Compost, cover, or remove stockpile</b>	<b>Composting Controls</b>
Throughput < 100K tpy	Within 10 days	Watering system
100K tpy ≤ Throughput < 200K tpy	Within 3 days	Watering system
200K tpy ≤ Throughput < 750K tpy	Within 3 days	Watering System and Compost Cover
Throughput ≥ 750K tpy	Within 3 days	Engineered Controls

**9. Other Agencies Whose Approvals Are Required and Permits Needed:**

This project is a rule development project and does not require permits from any agency. The United States Environmental Protection Agency has authority to approve the rule for inclusion into California’s State Implementation Plan.

**10. Name of Person Who Prepared Initial Study:**

Mark Montelongo  
 Air Quality Specialist

**B. FINDINGS**

District staff has prepared a Final Draft Staff Report for the proposed amendments to the rule, incorporated herein by reference, which demonstrates that the proposed amendments to the rule would not have an adverse impact on air quality. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15063(a), District staff prepared an Initial Study for the proposed project. The District finds that there is no substantial evidence that the project may have a significant effect on the environment. District staff has prepared a Negative Declaration for the project. Upon approval of the proposed rule by the District’s Governing Board, District staff will file a Notice of Determination with each County Clerk within the boundaries of the District, CEQA Guidelines §15075(d).



**C. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED**

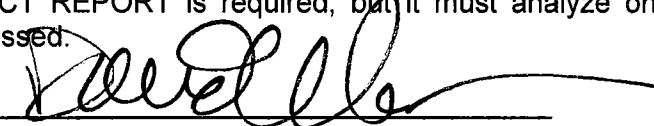
The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics               | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources         | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources     | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources            | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning        | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources             | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing       | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services               | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic   | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems     | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

**D. DETERMINATION**

I certify that this project was independently reviewed and analyzed and that this document reflects the independent judgment of the District.

- I find that the proposed project is exempt from CEQA requirements under California Code of Regulation §15061(b)(3), and a Notice of Exemption has been prepared.
- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION has been prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described on an attached sheet have been added to the project. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect(s) on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets, if the effect is a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated." An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

Signature:  Date: JUL 08 2011

Printed name: David Warner  
 Title: Director of Permit Services



**E. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT CHECKLIST**

<b>I. AESTHETICS</b> Would the proposal:	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				X
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcropping, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				X
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surrounding?				X
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area				X
<p><b>Discussion:</b> The proposed project is a rule development project. The purpose of Draft New Rule 4566 (Organic Material Composting Operations), is to limit emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) from composting operations. Draft New Rule 4566 applies to composting operations, which include composting and/or stockpiling of organic material at a composting facility. The proposed Draft New Rule would establish VOC emission reduction requirements on the basis of actual throughputs, rather than maximum allowable capacity limits for composting operations. Implementation of the project would not impose requirements affecting aesthetics of existing or future composting facilities. Therefore the District concludes there is no substantial evidence of record to support a conclusion that approval and implementation of the project would have a detrimental impact on aesthetics, as identified above (a-d).</p>				
<p><b>Mitigation:</b> None</p>				
<p><b>Reference:</b> Proposed Draft New Rule 4566 and supporting staff report.</p>				
<p><b>II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES</b>            In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measures methodology provided in the Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.</p> <p>Would the project:</p>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>





<b>II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES</b> (Continued)	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				X
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				X
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?				X
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				X
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use of conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				X
<p><b>Discussion:</b> The proposed project is a rule development project. The purpose of Draft New Rule 4566 (Organic Material Composting Operations), is to limit emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) from composting operations. Draft New Rule 4566 applies to composting operations, which include composting and/or stockpiling of organic material at a composting facility. The proposed Draft New Rule would establish VOC emission reduction requirements on the basis of actual throughputs, rather than maximum allowable capacity limits for composting operations. Implementation of the project would not impose requirements affecting agriculture resources of existing or future composting facilities. Therefore the District concludes there is no substantial evidence of record to support a conclusion that approval and implementation of the project would have a detrimental impact on agriculture resources, as identified above (a-e).</p>				
<p><b>Mitigation:</b> None</p>				
<p><b>Reference:</b> Proposed Draft New Rule 4566 and supporting staff report.</p>				



<b>III. AIR QUALITY</b> Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.  Would the project:	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?			X	
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?			X	
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?			X	
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			X	
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?			X	
<p><b>Discussion:</b> The proposed project is a rule development project. The purpose of Draft New Rule 4566 (Organic Material Composting Operations), is to limit emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) from composting operations. Draft New Rule 4566 applies to composting operations, which include composting and/or stockpiling of organic material at a composting facility. The proposed Draft New Rule would establish VOC emission reduction requirements on the basis of actual throughputs, rather than maximum allowable capacity limits for composting operations. District Staff has prepared a Staff Report: <i>Draft New Rule 4566 (Organic Material Composting Operations)</i>, incorporated herein by reference, for consideration by the District's Governing Board.</p>				
<p>District Staff has prepared an <i>Emission Reduction Analysis</i>, incorporated within the Final Draft Staff Report for the proposed project, which demonstrates that implementation of this project is expected to result in obtaining a 1,518 tons/year (4.2 tons/day) reduction in VOC emissions from composting. Implementation of certain control measures could result in increased fossil fuel consumption. These ancillary activities could result in a 1.4 tons/year increase in oxides of nitrogen (NOx), a 0.2 tons/year increase in VOC emissions and a 0.1 tons/year increase in particulate matter 10 microns (PM10). However, the District concludes that overall reductions in VOC emissions outweigh potential increases in NOx, VOC and PM10 emissions. Thus, implementation of Draft Rule 4566 would have a less than significant impact on air quality.</p>				
<p>The District concludes that there is no substantial evidence of record to support a conclusion that approval and implementation of the project would have a detrimental impact on air quality, as identified above (a-e).</p>				
<p><b>Reference:</b> Proposed Draft New Rule 4566 and supporting staff report.</p>				



<b>IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES</b> Would the project:	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				X
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?				X
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?				X
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?				X
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				X
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				X
<p><b>Discussion:</b> The proposed project is a rule development project. The purpose of Draft New Rule 4566 (Organic Material Composting Operations), is to limit emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) from composting operations. Draft New Rule 4566 applies to composting operations, which include composting and/or stockpiling of organic material at a composting facility. The proposed Draft New Rule would establish VOC emission reduction requirements on the basis of actual throughputs, rather than maximum allowable capacity limits for composting operations. Implementation of the project would not impose requirements affecting biological resources of existing or future composting facilities. Therefore the District concludes there is no substantial evidence of record to support a conclusion that approval and implementation of the project would have a detrimental impact on biological resources, as identified above (a-f).</p>				
<p><b>Mitigation:</b> None</p>				
<p><b>Reference:</b> Proposed Draft New Rule 4566 and supporting staff report.</p>				



<b>V. CULTURAL RESOURCES</b> Would the project:	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in '15064.5?				X
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to '15064.5?				X
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				X
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?				X
<b>Discussion:</b> The proposed project is a rule development project. The purpose of Draft New Rule 4566 (Organic Material Composting Operations), is to limit emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) from composting operations. Draft New Rule 4566 applies to composting operations, which include composting and/or stockpiling of organic material at a composting facility. The proposed Draft New Rule would establish VOC emission reduction requirements on the basis of actual throughputs, rather than maximum allowable capacity limits for composting operations. Implementation of the project would not impose requirements affecting cultural resources of existing or future composting facilities. Therefore the District concludes there is no substantial evidence of record to support a conclusion that approval and implementation of the project would have a detrimental impact on cultural resources, as identified above (a-d).				
<b>Mitigation:</b> None				
<b>Reference:</b> Proposed Draft New Rule 4566 and supporting staff report.				
<b>VI. GEOLOGY/SOILS</b> Would the project:	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				X
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.				X
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?				X
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				X
iv) Landslides?				X
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?				X



<b>VI. GEOLOGY/SOILS</b> (Continued)	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?				X
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?				X
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?				X

**Discussion:** The proposed project is a rule development project. The purpose of Draft New Rule 4566 (Organic Material Composting Operations), is to limit emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) from composting operations. Draft New Rule 4566 applies to composting operations, which include composting and/or stockpiling of organic material at a composting facility. The proposed Draft New Rule would establish VOC emission reduction requirements on the basis of actual throughputs, rather than maximum allowable capacity limits for composting operations. Implementation of the project would not impose requirements affecting geology/soils of existing or future composting facilities. Therefore the District concludes there is no substantial evidence of record to support a conclusion that approval and implementation of the project would have a detrimental impact on geology/soils, as identified above (a-e).

**Mitigation:** None

**Reference:** Proposed Draft New Rule 4566 and supporting staff report.

<b>VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS</b> Would the project:	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			X	
b) Conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?			X	

**Discussion:** Global climate change (GCC) is the cumulative change in the average weather of the earth that may be measured by changes in temperature, precipitation, storms, or wind. Global Climate Change is now generally accepted by the scientific community to be occurring and caused by "greenhouse gases" (GHG). Greenhouse gases are gases which allow direct sunlight (relative shortwave energy) to reach the Earth's surface unimpeded. As the shortwave energy (that in the visible and ultraviolet portion of the spectra) heats the surface, longer-wave (infrared) energy (heat) is reradiated to the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases absorb this energy, thereby allowing less heat to escape back to space, and 'trapping' it in the lower atmosphere.



The scientific and political communities in the State of California have collectively concluded that a significant and growing scientific body of evidence supports the need for regulating GHG emissions. The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) created a comprehensive, multi-year program to reduce GHG emissions in California, to 1990 levels by the year 2020. Currently, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) and the Legislature are working to develop policies and programs to implement AB32.

The proposed project is a rule development project. The purpose of Draft New Rule 4566 (Organic Material Composting Operations), is to limit emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) from composting operations. Draft New Rule 4566 applies to composting operations, which include composting and/or stockpiling of organic material at a composting facility. The proposed Draft New Rule would establish VOC emission reduction requirements on the basis of actual throughputs, rather than maximum allowable capacity limits for composting operations.

Composting is viewed as having an environmental benefit as compared to natural decomposition. Natural decomposition of materials left in place to decay is relatively inefficient and releases more gaseous emissions into the air. The effect of piling the material in the composting process delays release of gases into the air and allows more bacterial activity that turns these gaseous emissions into stored carbon. As a global warming issue, the total amount of carbon released is to be considered. The amount of carbon in different forms is decreased by the amount processed by bacteria into cell matter. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has assessed the balance between the cellular uptake and the amount of carbon emissions and nitrous oxide emissions. USEPA determined that the thirty year retention of carbon far outweighed the combined emissions of carbon and nitrous oxide converted into equivalents of carbon.

Implementation of Draft New Rule 4566 is not expected to either increase or decrease the amount of composting activity that currently occurs within the San Joaquin Valley air basin. In that regard, the impact of rule implementation is environmentally neutral.

One proposed method of reducing VOC emissions is to apply a layer of finished compost to the pile after turning. Based on results from a compost study (*San Diego State University Research Foundation – Comparison of Mitigation Measures for Reduction of Emissions Resulting from Greenwaste Composting*), the practices of applying the finished compost cover after turning was found to significantly reduce VOC emissions. The study also notes that the proposed control method may effect methane and nitrous oxide emissions. The study also indicates, global warming potential of VOC emissions has not been established therefore, it is not possible at this time to quantify the control measure's net effect on global climate change. As presented in the *Emission Reduction Analysis*, implementation of Draft New Rule 4566 is expected to reduce VOC emissions from composting by 1,518 tons/year (4.2 tons/day). Reducing VOC emissions reduce formation of tropospheric ozone. Thus, implementation of the proposed VOC control measures is expected to have an indirect, positive influence on global climate change.

Implementation of certain control measures could result in increased fossil fuel use. The District estimates that increased fossil fuel use could result in a 1.4 tons/year increase in oxides of nitrogen (NOx), a 0.2 tons/year increase in VOC, a 0.1 tons/year increase in particulate matter 10 microns (PM10), and a 183 tons/year increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In addition per District Policy (*APR-2015*), project greenhouse gas emissions less than or equal to 230 metric tons- CO<sub>2</sub>e/year are considered to be equivalent to zero. Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude GHG emissions associated with the project, will have a less than cumulatively significant impact.

Quantification of potential changes in global climate change that may result from implementation of Draft New Rule 4566 requires a degree of speculation and conjecture that is inappropriate and discouraged under CEQA (CCR §15187(d)). From a qualitative perspective, the District concludes that overall reductions in VOC emissions and the concomitant reduction in tropospheric ozone formation outweigh potential increases in NOx emissions and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions associated with increased fossil fuel consumption. Therefore, the District finds that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the District, that the project could have a cumulatively significant impact on global climate change, as identified above (a-b).



<b>Reference:</b> Proposed Draft New Rule 4566 and supporting staff report.				
<b>VIII. HAZARDS &amp; HAZARDOUS MATERIALS</b> Would the project:	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				X
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?				X
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				X
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				X
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				X
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				X
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				X
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?				X



**Discussion:** The proposed project is a rule development project. The purpose of Draft New Rule 4566 (Organic Material Composting Operations), is to limit emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) from composting operations. Draft New Rule 4566 applies to composting operations, which include composting and/or stockpiling of organic material at a composting facility. The proposed Draft New Rule would establish VOC emission reduction requirements on the basis of actual throughputs, rather than maximum allowable capacity limits for composting operations. Implementation of the project would not impose requirements affecting hazards and hazardous materials of existing or future composting facilities. Therefore the District concludes there is no substantial evidence of record to support a conclusion that approval and implementation of the project would have a detrimental impact on hazards and hazardous materials, as identified above (a-h).

**Mitigation:** None

**Reference:** Proposed Draft New Rule 4566 and supporting staff report.

<b>IX. HYDROLOGY/WATER QUALITY</b> Would the project:	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?				X
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?				X
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner, which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?				X
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?				X
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?				X
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?				X
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				X





IX. HYDROLOGY/WATER QUALITY (Continued)	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?				X
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?				
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow				X
<p><b>Discussion:</b> The proposed project is a rule development project. The purpose of Draft New Rule 4566 (Organic Material Composting Operations), is to limit emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) from composting operations. Draft New Rule 4566 applies to composting operations, which include composting and/or stockpiling of organic material at a composting facility. The proposed Draft New Rule would establish VOC emission reduction requirements on the basis of actual throughputs, rather than maximum allowable capacity limits for composting operations. Implementation of the project would not impose requirements affecting hydrology/water quality of existing or future composting facilities. Therefore the District concludes there is no substantial evidence of record to support a conclusion that approval and implementation of the project would have a detrimental impact on hydrology/water quality, as identified above (a-j).</p>				
<p><b>Mitigation:</b> None</p>				
<p><b>Reference:</b> Proposed Draft New Rule 4566 and supporting staff report.</p>				
X. LAND USE/PLANNING Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?				X
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				X
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				X
<p><b>Discussion:</b> The proposed project is a rule development project. The purpose of Draft New Rule 4566 (Organic Material Composting Operations), is to limit emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) from composting operations. Draft New Rule 4566 applies to composting operations, which include composting and/or stockpiling of organic material at a composting facility. The proposed Draft New Rule would establish VOC emission reduction requirements on the basis of actual throughputs, rather than maximum allowable capacity limits for composting operations. Implementation of the project would not impose requirements affecting land use/planning of existing or future composting facilities. Therefore the District concludes there is no substantial evidence of record to support a conclusion that approval and implementation of the project would have a detrimental impact on land use/planning, as identified above (a-c).</p>				
<p><b>Mitigation:</b> None</p>				



<b>Reference:</b> Proposed Draft New Rule 4566 and supporting staff report.				
<b>XI. MINERAL RESOURCES</b> Would the project:	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?				X
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?				X
<b>Discussion:</b> The proposed project is a rule development project. The purpose of Draft New Rule 4566 (Organic Material Composting Operations), is to limit emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) from composting operations. Draft New Rule 4566 applies to composting operations, which include composting and/or stockpiling of organic material at a composting facility. The proposed Draft New Rule would establish VOC emission reduction requirements on the basis of actual throughputs, rather than maximum allowable capacity limits for composting operations. Implementation of the project would not impose requirements affecting mineral resources of existing or future composting facilities. Therefore the District concludes there is no substantial evidence of record to support a conclusion that approval and implementation of the project would have a detrimental impact on mineral resources, as identified above (a-b).				
<b>Mitigation:</b> None				
<b>Reference:</b> Proposed Draft New Rule 4566 and supporting staff report.				
<b>XII. NOISE</b> Would the project result in:	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?				X
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?				X
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				X
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				X
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X



<b>XII. NOISE</b> (Continued)	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				<b>X</b>
<p><b>Discussion:</b> The proposed project is a rule development project. The purpose of Draft New Rule 4566 (Organic Material Composting Operations), is to limit emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) from composting operations. Draft New Rule 4566 applies to composting operations, which include composting and/or stockpiling of organic material at a composting facility. The proposed Draft New Rule would establish VOC emission reduction requirements on the basis of actual throughputs, rather than maximum allowable capacity limits for composting operations. Implementation of the project would not impose requirements affecting noise of existing or future composting facilities. Therefore the District concludes there is no substantial evidence of record to support a conclusion that approval and implementation of the project would have a detrimental impact on noise, as identified above (a-f).</p>				
<p><b>Mitigation:</b> None</p>				
<p><b>Reference:</b> Proposed Draft New Rule 4566 and supporting staff report.</p>				
<b>XIII. POPULATION/HOUSING</b> Would the project:	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				<b>X</b>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				<b>X</b>
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				<b>X</b>
<p><b>Discussion:</b> The proposed project is a rule development project. The purpose of Draft New Rule 4566 (Organic Material Composting Operations), is to limit emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) from composting operations. Draft New Rule 4566 applies to composting operations, which include composting and/or stockpiling of organic material at a composting facility. The proposed Draft New Rule would establish VOC emission reduction requirements on the basis of actual throughputs, rather than maximum allowable capacity limits for composting operations. Implementation of the project would not impose requirements affecting population/housing of existing or future composting facilities. Therefore the District concludes there is no substantial evidence of record to support a conclusion that approval and implementation of the project would have a detrimental impact on population/housing, as identified above (a-c).</p>				
<p><b>Mitigation:</b> None</p>				
<p><b>Reference:</b> Proposed Draft New Rule 4566 and supporting staff report.</p>				



<b>XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES</b> Would the project:	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				X
Fire protection?				X
Police protection?				X
Schools?				X
Parks?				X
Other public facilities?				X
<p><b>Discussion:</b> The proposed project is a rule development project. The purpose of Draft New Rule 4566 (Organic Material Composting Operations), is to limit emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) from composting operations. Draft New Rule 4566 applies to composting operations, which include composting and/or stockpiling of organic material at a composting facility. The proposed Draft New Rule would establish VOC emission reduction requirements on the basis of actual throughputs, rather than maximum allowable capacity limits for composting operations. Implementation of the project would not impose requirements affecting public services of existing or future composting facilities. Therefore the District concludes there is no substantial evidence of record to support a conclusion that approval and implementation of the project would have a detrimental impact on public services, as identified above (a).</p>				
<p><b>Mitigation:</b> None</p>				
<p><b>Reference:</b> Proposed Draft New Rule 4566 and supporting staff report.</p>				
<b>XV. RECREATION</b> Would the Project:	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				X
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				X



**Discussion:** The proposed project is a rule development project. The purpose of Draft New Rule 4566 (Organic Material Composting Operations), is to limit emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) from composting operations. Draft New Rule 4566 applies to composting operations, which include composting and/or stockpiling of organic material at a composting facility. The proposed Draft New Rule would establish VOC emission reduction requirements on the basis of actual throughputs, rather than maximum allowable capacity limits for composting operations. Implementation of the project would not impose requirements affecting recreation of existing or future composting facilities. Therefore the District concludes there is no substantial evidence of record to support a conclusion that approval and implementation of the project would have a detrimental impact on recreation, as identified above (a-b).

**Mitigation:** None

**Reference:** Proposed Draft New Rule 4566 and supporting staff report.

<b>XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC</b> Would the project:	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Cause an increase in traffic, which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)? Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and on motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?				X
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways? Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads of highways?				X
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?				X
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				X



<b>XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC</b> (Continued)	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?				X
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities? supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?				X
<p><b>Discussion:</b> The proposed project is a rule development project. The purpose of Draft New Rule 4566 (Organic Material Composting Operations), is to limit emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) from composting operations. Draft New Rule 4566 applies to composting operations, which include composting and/or stockpiling of organic material at a composting facility. The proposed Draft New Rule would establish VOC emission reduction requirements on the basis of actual throughputs, rather than maximum allowable capacity limits for composting operations. Implementation of the project would not impose requirements affecting transportation/traffic of existing or future composting facilities. Therefore the District concludes there is no substantial evidence of record to support a conclusion that approval and implementation of the project would have a detrimental impact on transportation/traffic, as identified above (a-f).</p>				
<p><b>Mitigation:</b> None</p>				
<p><b>Reference:</b> Proposed Draft New Rule 4566 and supporting staff report.</p>				
<b>XVII. UTILITIES/SERVICE SYSTEMS</b> Would the project:	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				X
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				X



<b>XVII. UTILITIES/SERVICE SYSTEMS</b> (Continued)	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?				<b>X</b>
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?				<b>X</b>
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				<b>X</b>
<p><b>Discussion:</b> The proposed project is a rule development project. The purpose of Draft New Rule 4566 (Organic Material Composting Operations), is to limit emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) from composting operations. Draft New Rule 4566 applies to composting operations, which include composting and/or stockpiling of organic material at a composting facility. The proposed Draft New Rule would establish VOC emission reduction requirements on the basis of actual throughputs, rather than maximum allowable capacity limits for composting operations. Implementation of the project would not impose requirements affecting utilities/service systems of existing or future composting facilities. Therefore the District concludes there is no substantial evidence of record to support a conclusion that approval and implementation of the project would have a detrimental impact on utilities/service systems, as identified above (a-g).</p>				
<p><b>Mitigation:</b> None</p>				
<p><b>Reference:</b> Proposed Draft New Rule 4566 and supporting staff report.</p>				
<b>XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?				<b>X</b>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively Considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?				<b>X</b>



<b>XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE</b> (Continued)	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
c) Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				<b>X</b>
<p><b>Discussion:</b> The proposed project is a rule development project. The purpose of Draft New Rule 4566 (Organic Material Composting Operations), is to limit emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) from composting operations. Draft New Rule 4566 applies to composting operations, which include composting and/or stockpiling of organic material at a composting facility. The proposed Draft New Rule would establish VOC emission reduction requirements on the basis of actual throughputs, rather than maximum allowable capacity limits for composting operations. Implementation of the project would not impose requirements affecting mandatory findings of significance of existing or future composting facilities. Therefore the District concludes there is no substantial evidence of record to support a conclusion that approval and implementation of the project would have a detrimental impact on mandatory findings of significance, as identified above (a-c).</p>				
<p><b>Mitigation:</b> None</p>				
<p><b>Reference:</b> Proposed Draft New Rule 4566 and supporting staff report.</p>				