

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****DISTRICT 6**

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October 23, 2012

2135-IGR/CEQA  
6-TUL-137-22.22 +/-  
NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP)  
HARVEST-TULARE COMPOSTING FACILITY  
SCH # 2012101010

Mr. Hector Guerra  
Chief Environmental Planner  
County of Tulare  
Resource Management Agency  
5961 S. Mooney Boulevard  
Visalia, CA 93277

Dear Mr. Guerra:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the expansion of the Harvest-Tulare Composting Facility. The project proposes to add an anaerobic digester to the existing facility which has been operating since 1996. The project will also increase the tonnage produced at the facility from 86,000 ton per year to approximately 216,000 tons per year. The project is located at 24487 Road 140 at the Avenue 245 intersection, approximately 1.6 miles north of the State Route (SR) 137/Road 140 intersection. Caltrans has the following comments:

As indicated in the NOP - Project Description, the project "...is anticipated to result in an *increase* of total vehicle trips per day...". Caltrans anticipates that a significant number of vehicle trips will use the SR 137/Road 140 intersection as a preferred route to and from the composting facility. Caltrans acknowledges that the EIR will need to evaluate the facilities existing vehicle trips compared to the increase in projects-related trips, including seasonal peak trips.

To assess the project-related impact on SR 137 and quantify mitigation if necessary, Caltrans recommends peak-hour Trip Generation and Trip Distribution estimates be provided in the DEIR, which could be accomplished through a focused analysis (specific intersections) or a Traffic Impact Study.

Please be advised that any future development in the vicinity of a State Route, whether the entitlement is deemed by the lead agency to be discretionary or ministerial should be sent to Caltrans for review. If you have any questions, please call me at (559) 488-7396.

Sincerely,

DAVID DEEL  
Associate Transportation Planner  
District 6