



Case Study

Sonoma County Waste Mgmt Agency ~ Compost Zero Discharge Plan

Background

The Sonoma County Waste Management Agency (SCWMA) was required by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to reduce runoff from the 25-acre composting operation atop Sonoma County's central landfill. Rainwater seeping through the open-air compost piles historically had been allowed to mingle with stormwater from other parts of the landfill, and in significant storms both were discharged into Stemple Creek. SCWMA had to develop and implement a Compost Wastewater Zero Discharge Plan for all contact water from its 100,000 ton per year compost facility.

DEI Scope of Work

DEI was hired to work as a team with SCWMA to develop and assist in implementing a feasible Compost Wastewater Zero Discharge Plan. The Plan had to meet the requirements of the RWQCB to initially reduce and ultimately eliminate compost contact water discharge from the facility.

DEI Tasks

DEI was responsible for the following tasks:

- Served as a liaison and facilitator for communications between multiple public and private stakeholders to develop consensus on feasible Zero Discharge Plan components
- Prepared the Compost Wastewater Zero Discharge Plan, which included multiple short-term components to significantly reduce discharge initially, and three long-term component options designed to eliminate all discharge in the future
- Coordinated implementation of interim components including the construction of a two million gallon lined surface impoundment for containment of compost contact water and subsequent trucking to the local publicly-owned treatment works (POTW) for treatment
- Worked with the compost contractor to implement operational changes to reduce the footprint of the compost deck thereby reducing contact runoff from the facility
- Prepared and made presentations to the SCWMA and the RWQCB Board of Directors regarding the Zero Discharge Plan

Results

- The Compost Wastewater Zero Discharge Plan was adopted by the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency, and approved by the RWQCB.
- The short- and long-term components of the plan were implemented by the SCWMA.

DEI

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