

**Appendix D4: Nursery Products Hawes Composting Facility  
Highway 58 and Hawes Airport Road, Hinkley, CA**

<b>Environmental Topic</b>	<b>Impact(s)</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>
Aesthetics	<p><b>PROJECT SPECIFIC:</b> The Project site is located off State Route 58, which has been designated by California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) as an Eligible State Scenic Highway although not formally adopted as Designated. There are no trees, rock outcroppings or buildings are located in the vicinity that would be affected by the Project. The Project area is comprised of relatively undisturbed natural areas, and none of the area has been characterized by the San Bernardino County General Plan as “scenic”. The Project may create new sources of light and/or glare as necessary for project safety. The proposed lighting associated with the project will be shielded to preclude light pollution or light trespass on adjacent property in conformance with this the County Night Sky ordinance, the County General Plan, and the updated Development Code. Although the appearance of the site would change, the viewer response to this change is considered less than significant. Overall impacts to visual character are considered less than significant.</p> <p><b>CUMULATIVE:</b> The proposed modification to the visual characteristics of either the Project site, Reduced Capacity Alternative, or the Fort Cady Alternative Site would result in an incremental impact to these rural sites. However, the open space view is essentially conserved by the RC zoning that allows one residence per 40 acres. At “build-out” either of the sites would still remain rural; therefore, no cumulative impact would result.</p>	None.	Less than significant.
Agricultural	<p><b>PROJECT SPECIFIC:</b> Both the proposed Project site and the Fort Cady site are located in rural desert areas and have not been used for irrigated agricultural production. The sites are not known to contain soils that have been designated as prime or unique agricultural soils and agricultural activities have not historically occurred at these sites. The Project would not adversely impact prime or locally important agriculture as none occur within the Project area. The Project site is not under a Williamson Act contract. Therefore, impacts to agricultural resources would be less than significant.</p> <p><b>CUMULATIVE:</b> Neither the Hawes or Fort Cady site is being utilized for agricultural uses. The rural type of zoning would allow agricultural uses in either vicinity with only a minimal loss of land that could be used for agriculture. The loss of this amount of land (78 to 160 acres) is not a cumulatively considerable impact to agricultural resources.</p>	None.	Less than significant.
Air Quality -	<b>PROJECT SPECIFIC:</b> The Project has the potential to generate offensive	AQ-1: The applicant shall	Less than significant.

Environmental Topic	Impact(s)	Mitigation	Conclusion
<p>Construction</p>	<p>odors.</p> <p>Although long-term operation of the Project would not, by itself, exceed the SCAQMD's PM10 threshold, these emissions are based on watering the road to minimize dust generation. Without watering (or paving) the access road to reduce dust, the Project would result in significant dust impacts. Consequently, dust control mitigation measures are included.</p> <p><b>CUMULATIVE:</b> The proposed Project, Reduced Capacity Alternative and Fort Cady Site Alternative would be located several miles from any other appreciable stationary source of air pollutants. The facility's impacts to air quality are expected to occur in the near vicinity of the project site, where impacts of the nearest other sources would be small. However, as described previously, each of these alternatives would introduce significant unmitigable emissions ozone precursors (VOCs), which will contribute to regional nonattainment conditions. Given these circumstances, the proposed Project, Reduced Capacity Alternative and Fort Cady Site Alternative cumulative air quality impacts are all considered to be significant.</p>	<p>development of an Odor Impact Minimization Plan (OIMP) that will outline self-imposed operating requirements that will avoid or mitigate significant odor impacts result in odor control and reduction. The OIMP shall be submitted to the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) for review and approval prior to operation. Specific mitigative actions prior to facility operation, the applicant shall prepare an Odor Impact Minimization Plan (OIMP) to reduce potential odor impacts during operation of the compost facility. The OIMP shall be prepared pursuant to the requirements established by the CIWMB (14 CCR 17863.4) and would act as the overall program document for odor control at the compost facility. The OIMP shall include written procedures for reducing odors due to feedstock receipt, processing and handling and for compost processing. The OIMP shall be submitted to the Local Enforcement Agency, prior to operation. OIMP will include: a) Odor-Screening and Load-Checking Procedures b) Feedstock Storage and Processing Measures c) Windrow Management Measures d) Good Housekeeping Procedures e) Odor Complaint Response System</p> <p>AQ-2: All unpaved on-site and access road shall be sprayed with water frequently enough to minimize the generation of visible dust. Alternatively, these roads may be paved to eliminate the watering requirement. Additionally, windrows</p>	

Environmental Topic	Impact(s)	Mitigation	Conclusion
Air Quality - Operational	<p><b>PROJECT SPECIFIC:</b> The Mojave Desert Air Basin does not meet the State and Federal ambient air quality standard for ozone (O3) and PM10. The Project would exceed the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District’s MDAQMD’s VOC emissions thresholds during Project operations. These emissions constitute cumulative and Project-level impacts, as they contribute towards the creation of basin-wide O3 levels.</p> <p>The Project has the potential to generate offensive odors.</p> <p>Although long-term operation of the Project would not, by itself, exceed the SCAQMD’s PM10 threshold, these emissions are based on watering the road to minimize dust generation. Without watering (or paving) the access road to reduce dust, the Project would result in significant dust impacts. Consequently, dust control mitigation measures are included.</p> <p>Heavy metals may be transferred off-site from turning during episodes of high wind speeds (30 miles per hour or higher) impacting desert tortoises. Heavy-duty vehicles generate combustion emissions which add to significant VOC and PM10 operational emissions.</p> <p><b>CUMULATIVE:</b> The proposed Nursery Products facility will introduce significant emissions of dust and ozone precursors (NOx and VOCs), which will contribute to regional nonattainment conditions for ozone and PM10.</p>	<p>shall be sprayed with water to prevent visible dust during windy conditions.</p> <p>AQ-1: The applicant shall development of an Odor Impact Minimization Plan (OIMP) that will outline self-imposed operating requirements that will avoid or mitigate significant odor impacts result in odor control and reduction. The OIMP shall be submitted to the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) for review and approval prior to operation. Specific mitigative actions prior to facility operation, the applicant shall prepare an Odor Impact Minimization Plan (OIMP) to reduce potential odor impacts during operation of the compost facility. The OIMP shall be prepared pursuant to the requirements established by the CIWMB (14 CCR 17863.4) and would act as the overall program document for odor control at the compost facility. The OIMP shall include written procedures for reducing odors due to feedstock receipt, processing and handling and for compost processing. The OIMP shall be submitted to the Local Enforcement Agency, prior to operation. OIMP will include: a)Odor-Screening and Load-Checking Procedures b) Feedstock Storage and Processing Measures c) Windrow Management Measures d) Good Housekeeping Procedures e) Odor Complaint Response System</p> <p>AQ-2: All unpaved on-site and access road shall be sprayed with water frequently enough to minimize the generation of visible dust.</p>	Significant and unmitigable

Environmental Topic	Impact(s)	Mitigation	Conclusion
		<p>Alternatively, these roads may be paved to eliminate the watering requirement. Additionally, windrows shall be sprayed with water to prevent visible dust during windy conditions.</p> <p>AQ-3: The applicant shall maintain a functioning anemometer at the site at all times and shall refrain from turning the windrows during episodes of high wind speeds (30 miles per hour or higher).</p> <p>AQ-4: Heavy equipment powered by diesel fuel used at the site shall use lower emitting diesel fuels. All trucks owned and operated by the applicant that make deliveries to the site shall also use lower emitting diesel fuels. The operator shall also encourage truckers delivering materials to the proposed facility that are not under the control of the applicant to use Nursery Products lower emitting diesel fuels. Biodiesel is the preferred lower emitting fuel.</p> <p>All mitigation measures identified in the Air Quality Mitigation measures would also apply to the cumulative impacts.</p>	
<p>Biological Resources - Construction</p>	<p><b>PROJECT SPECIFIC:</b> The Project would indirectly impact the desert tortoise (an endangered species) by loss of habitat (160 acres) and by potentially attracting ravens (tortoise predator).</p> <p>Construction activities and vehicle traffic from the Project could directly harm the desert tortoise and possible burrowing owl.</p> <p>Construction activities may harm Mohave ground squirrel.</p> <p><b>CUMULATIVE:</b> The site is located on private property, and there is a large patchwork of state-and federal-owned lands in the surrounding area.</p>	<p>B-1: The Project shall be phased, with the initial phase not to exceed 80 acres in size. Prior to developing any subsequent phase, the Applicant shall provide, and the County shall review and approve, an operating plan demonstrating the need for such subsequent phase.</p> <p>B-2: Prior to commencing any ground-disturbing activity, the Applicant shall mitigate and/or avoid impacts to</p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>

<b>Environmental Topic</b>	<b>Impact(s)</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>
	<p>Adverse cumulative impacts include the potential opportunity to develop other private lands in the Project vicinity. A regional HCP, if approved, would address potentially significant cumulative impacts to biological resources in the Project vicinity.</p>	<p>federally- and state-protected species by obtaining required incidental take permits from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game, and by complying with the terms of those permits, including, without limitation, the purchase and conservation of such habitat as required, the preparation and approval of an adequate Habitat Conservation Plan, and the installation of permanent tortoise fencing along roads as required.</p> <p>B-3: All employees, subcontractors, construction personnel, and other individuals who work on-site shall participate in an-awareness program covering addressing desert tortoise, burrowing owl, Mohave Ground Squirrel, and other federally- and state-protected species at the Hawes site prior to ground-disturbing activities. The program shall be administered by the Authorized Biologist. It may be given in the field, and shall include truck drivers, delivery personnel, and other Project-related personnel occasionally entering the work site. Wallet-sized certification cards shall be provided to personnel who have attended the training, and personnel shall carry those cards when working on site</p> <p>B-4: A permanent tortoise-proof fence shall be installed around the perimeter of the Project impact area prior to ground disturbing activities. Once the fence is installed, clearance surveys for desert tortoise shall be conducted by</p>	

Environmental Topic	Impact(s)	Mitigation	Conclusion
		<p>qualified biologists to locate and remove any tortoises and close their burrows within the Project impact area. An authorized biological monitor shall be present during construction to ensure that tortoises do not re-enter the construction area and to remove or rescue any individuals that may be injured. Mortality of any tortoise shall be reported to wildlife agency staff.</p> <p>B-5 Between February 15 and November 15, the tortoise clearance survey shall occur within 48 hours prior to ground disturbance. Between November 16 and February 14, the survey may be performed several days or weeks prior to ground disturbance, unless ground disturbance will occur during a rain event. Ground disturbance shall not occur during a rain event, unless a clearance survey has occurred within the previous 48 hours.</p> <p>B-6 Vegetation clearing activities shall occur when tortoises are least likely to be active, including, but not limited to, the period between November 15 and February 14.</p> <p>B-7 Cross-country (off-road) vehicle use shall be prohibited and signs shall be posted.</p> <p>B-8 Except on paved roads with posted speed limits, vehicle speeds shall not exceed 20 miles per hour through desert tortoise habitat. This speed limit shall be posted along all access routes associated with the Project. Drivers shall take all feasible steps to avoid tortoises encountered on the roads, including, but not limited to</p>	

Environmental Topic	Impact(s)	Mitigation	Conclusion
		<p>stopping and waiting for tortoises to cross the road).</p> <p>B-9 All trash and discarded food items generated by construction and operation activities shall be promptly contained and regularly removed from the Project site to reduce the attractiveness of the area to ravens and other potential desert tortoise predators. Prior to ground disturbing activities, the applicant shall submit, and the County and CDFG shall approve, a raven management plan designed to minimize tortoise predation as part of the Incidental take permit or permits required under Mitigation Measure B-2. Additionally, all artificial water sources must be covered or otherwise made inaccessible to wildlife.</p> <p>B-10 Prior to commencing ground disturbing activities, the Applicant shall submit, and the County shall review and approve, evidence of financial ability to properly manage conserved habitat and to monitor the impact of the Project on surrounding.</p> <p>B-11: In order to avoid incidental take of birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, grading and brush removal of any undisturbed habitat shall be scheduled outside the breeding season of most migratory birds (i.e., grading shall not take place from March through July unless surveys for nesting birds are conducted and no impacts are likely).</p> <p>B-15: All deliveries of green material to the project shall be made in covered or enclosed vehicles in order to avoid</p>	

Environmental Topic	Impact(s)	Mitigation	Conclusion
		<p>or mitigate the potential for significant environmental impacts related to invasive species and damage to habitat. The Applicant shall not accept deliveries of green material in uncovered vehicles, and shall post a sign at the entrance to the composting facility notifying drivers of that policy.</p> <p>B-12: Prior to commencing ground disturbing activities, Mohave Ground Squirrel trapping surveys shall be conducted to confirm that the species is not present at the Hawes site. If the surveys determine that the Mohave Ground Squirrel is present, the applicant shall avoid or mitigate environmental impacts by obtaining required incidental take permits from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the California Department of Fish and Game, and by complying with the terms of those permits, including, without limitation, the purchase and conservation of such habitat as required and the preparation and approval of an adequate Habitat Conservation Plan.</p> <p>All mitigation measures identified in the Biology Mitigation Measures would also apply to the cumulative impacts.</p>	
Biological Resources - Operation	<p><b>PROJECT SPECIFIC:</b> The Project would indirectly impact the desert tortoise (an endangered species) by loss of habitat (160 acres) and by potentially attracting ravens (tortoise predator). Construction activities and vehicle traffic from the Project could directly harm the desert tortoise and possible burrowing owl.</p> <p>The Project may introduce invasive plants into adjacent natural habitat.</p>	<p>B-1: The Project shall be phased, with the initial phase not to exceed 80 acres in size. Prior to developing any subsequent phase, the Applicant shall provide, and the County shall review and approve, an operating plan demonstrating the need for such subsequent phase.</p>	Less than significant.



Environmental Topic	Impact(s)	Mitigation	Conclusion
	<p>The Project may cause a fire on adjacent property that would degrade existing desert tortoise habitat.</p> <p><i>Fort Cady Site Alternative only</i> – Loss of honey mesquite bosque habitat would be considered significant due to the threatened status of this habitat in California.</p> <p><b>CUMULATIVE:</b> The site is located on private property, and there is a large patchwork of state-and federal-owned lands in the surrounding area. Adverse cumulative impacts include the potential opportunity to develop other private lands in the Project vicinity. A regional HCP, if approved, would address potentially significant cumulative impacts to biological resources in the Project vicinity.</p>	<p>B-2: Prior to commencing any ground-disturbing activity, the Applicant shall mitigate and/or avoid impacts to federally- and state-protected species by obtaining required incidental take permits from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game, and by complying with the terms of those permits, including, without limitation, the purchase and conservation of such habitat as required, the preparation and approval of an adequate Habitat Conservation Plan, and the installation of permanent tortoise fencing along roads as required.</p> <p>B-3: All employees, subcontractors, construction personnel, and other individuals who work on-site shall participate in an-awareness program covering addressing desert tortoise, burrowing owl, Mohave Ground Squirrel, and other federally- and state-protected species at the Hawes site prior to ground-disturbing activities. The program shall be administered by the Authorized Biologist. It may be given in the field, and shall include truck drivers, delivery personnel, and other Project-related personnel occasionally entering the work site. Wallet-sized certification cards shall be provided to personnel who have attended the training, and personnel shall carry those cards when working on site</p> <p>B-4: A permanent tortoise-proof fence shall be installed around the perimeter of the Project impact area prior to</p>	

Environmental Topic	Impact(s)	Mitigation	Conclusion
		<p>ground disturbing activities. Once the fence is installed, clearance surveys for desert tortoise shall be conducted by qualified biologists to locate and remove any tortoises and close their burrows within the Project impact area. An authorized biological monitor shall be present during construction to ensure that tortoises do not re-enter the construction area and to remove or rescue any individuals that may be injured. Mortality of any tortoise shall be reported to wildlife agency staff.</p> <p>B-5 Between February 15 and November 15, the tortoise clearance survey shall occur within 48 hours prior to ground disturbance. Between November 16 and February 14, the survey may be performed several days or weeks prior to ground disturbance, unless ground disturbance will occur during a rain event. Ground disturbance shall not occur during a rain event, unless a clearance survey has occurred within the previous 48 hours.</p> <p>B-6 Vegetation clearing activities shall occur when tortoises are least likely to be active, including, but not limited to, the period between November 15 and February 14.</p> <p>B-7 Cross-country (off-road) vehicle use shall be prohibited and signs shall be posted.</p> <p>B-8 Except on paved roads with posted speed limits, vehicle speeds shall not exceed 20 miles per hour through desert tortoise habitat. This speed limit shall be posted along all access routes associated with the</p>	

Environmental Topic	Impact(s)	Mitigation	Conclusion
		<p>Project. Drivers shall take all feasible steps to avoid tortoises encountered on the roads, including, but not limited to stopping and waiting for tortoises to cross the road.</p> <p>B-9 All trash and discarded food items generated by construction and operation activities shall be promptly contained and regularly removed from the Project site to reduce the attractiveness of the area to ravens and other potential desert tortoise predators. Prior to ground disturbing activities, the applicant shall submit, and the County and CDFG shall approve, a raven management plan designed to minimize tortoise predation as part of the Incidental take permit or permits required under Mitigation Measure B-2. Additionally, all artificial water sources must be covered or otherwise made inaccessible to wildlife.</p> <p>B-10 Prior to commencing ground disturbing activities, the Applicant shall submit, and the County shall review and approve, evidence of financial ability to properly manage conserved habitat and to monitor the impact of the Project on surrounding.</p> <p>B-11: In order to avoid incidental take of birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, grading and brush removal of any undisturbed habitat shall be scheduled outside the breeding season of most migratory birds (i.e., grading shall not take place from March through July unless surveys for nesting birds are conducted and no impacts are likely).</p>	

Environmental Topic	Impact(s)	Mitigation	Conclusion
		<p>B-15: All deliveries of green material to the project shall be made in covered or enclosed vehicles in order to avoid or mitigate the potential for significant environmental impacts related to invasive species and damage to habitat. The Applicant shall not accept deliveries of green material in uncovered vehicles, and shall post a sign at the entrance to the composting facility notifying drivers of that policy.</p> <p>B-13: Post construction surveys for invasive plants at the Hawes site and within a 500-foot buffer outside the fire break, shall be conducted and submitted to the County no later than 30 days before the facility opens. The County shall review and approve the sureveys before the facility opens. If feasible,-these surveys should be conducted in early spring 2007 if the facility will open later that year. All plant species that are present shall be identified and this area monitored annually (early spring) to detect any invasive species that may be present. If an invasive species is detected,-an herbicide that is appropriate to the species, as determined by the County and BLM, shall be applied to prevent dispersal of exotic or invasive plant species. The frequency of surveys may be reduced to once every four years if no invasive are detected during the first five years of monitoring.</p> <p>The Project site must maintain an adequate water supply and delivery capacity as well as clear aisles between windrows for easy access in case of</p>	

Environmental Topic	Impact(s)	Mitigation	Conclusion
		<p>fire. The Applicant shall submit, and the County shall review and approve, evidence of adequate water supply and plans demonstrating adequate windrow spacing prior to commencing shall operations.</p> <p>B-15: All deliveries of green material to the project shall be made in covered or enclosed vehicles in order to avoid or mitigate the potential for significant environmental impacts related to invasive species and damage to habitat. The Applicant shall not accept deliveries of green material in uncovered vehicles, and shall post a sign at the entrance to the composting facility notifying drivers of that policy.</p> <p>B-16: All deliveries of biosolids to the project shall be made in covered or enclosed vehicles in order to avoid or mitigate the potential for significant environmental impacts related to damage to habitat, airborne transmission of pathogens and soil contamination. The Applicant shall not accept deliveries of biosolids in uncovered vehicles, and shall post a sign at the entrance to the composting facility notifying drivers of that policy.</p> <p>All mitigation measures identified in the Biology Mitigation Measures would also apply to the cumulative impacts.</p>	
<p>Cultural Resources and Paleontology</p>	<p><b>PROJECT SPECIFIC:</b> Previously unidentified cultural resources may be discovered during Project grading/excavation. Significant non-renewable paleontological resources may be discovered and damaged during Project grading/excavation.  <i>Fort Cady Site Alternative only</i> –Possibility of the site to eligible for the California Register of Historical Places (CRHR) criteria</p>	<p>CR-1: Monitoring by a qualified archaeologist shall occur during grubbing, grading or any construction excavation that disturbs native soils. In the event that an unanticipated find is discovered during construction activities, the construction crew will</p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>

Environmental Topic	Impact(s)	Mitigation	Conclusion
	<p><b>CUMULATIVE:</b> The Project will not result in significant impacts as no cultural resources eligible for CRHR listing are known on site. While there are cultural resources on the Fort Cady Alternative Site, it is anticipated that these resources could be conserved by the collection and curation of any resources that might be encountered during site preparations.</p> <p>Therefore, the impact to cultural resources would not result in a significant cumulative impact.</p>	<p>stop work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery. Nursery Products The Applicant will report the discovery to the San Bernardino County Museum and the Land Use Services Department (LUSD). A qualified archaeologist will be required to assess the integrity and significance of any discovery prior to work proceeding in the area.</p> <p>Should human remains be encountered, work in the vicinity must be terminated and the County Coroner will be notified immediately pursuant to Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 7050.5 (c). If the coroner recognizes the remains to be those of a Native American, or has reason to believe that they are those of a Native American, he or she will contact the Native American Heritage Commission. LUSD may shall require Nursery Products to take reasonable measures to avoid or minimize impacts to the resource if the resource is determined to be significant, i.e., eligible for the CRHR.</p> <p>CR-2 : Monitoring of excavation in areas identified as likely to contain paleontological resources by a qualified paleontological monitor is required for all excavation into undisturbed sediments of Pleistocene older alluvium (or the Lake Manix Formation for the Fort Cady Site Alternative) , both at the surface and in the subsurface.</p> <p>Paleontological monitors must be equipped to salvage fossils as they are unearthed, to avoid construction delays, and to remove samples of sediments that are likely to contain the remains of</p>	

Environmental Topic	Impact(s)	Mitigation	Conclusion
		<p>small fossil invertebrates and vertebrates. Monitors must be empowered to temporarily halt or divert equipment to allow removal of abundant or large specimens. CR-3: Any recovered specimens shall be prepared and stabilized to a point of identification and permanent preservation, including washing of sediments to recover small invertebrates. CR-4: Any small specimens collected shall be identified and curated into an established, accredited museum repository with permanent retrievable paleontological storage (e.g., SBCM). These procedures are also essential steps in effective paleontological mitigation (Scott and others, 2004) and CEQA compliance (Scott and Springer, 2003). The paleontologist must have a written repository agreement in hand prior to the initiation of mitigation activities. Mitigation of adverse impacts to significant paleontological resources is not complete until such curation into an established museum repository has been fully completed and documented. CR-5: If any paleontological resources are found during excavation, a report of findings with an appended itemized inventory of specimens, shall be prepared and submitted to the County Museum and LUSD. CR-1, and: CR-6: If site CA-SBR-11998 cannot be avoided, an archaeological, excavation testing program shall be developed and implemented by a qualified</p>	

Environmental Topic	Impact(s)	Mitigation	Conclusion
		archeologist. CR-7: A qualified vertebrate paleontologist shall conduct a field assessment of the study area and monitor excavation in any surface and subsurface sediments.	
Geology and Soils	<p><b>PROJECT SPECIFIC:</b> The proposed Project site is located within the Centro Subarea of the Mojave River Basin which is generally flat with a very slight gradient towards the north. The Centro Subarea is part of a desert basin that is filled with alluvium sporadically interrupted by remnants of old ridges. No special hazard zones (active earthquake fault zones) delineated by the 1972 Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zone Act are located within the proposed Project site. Since no mapped active or potentially active faults are known to pass through the site, the potential risk from fault rupture is considered very low. The proposed Project site is not within a liquefaction seismic hazard zone and, in general the site contains soils with a moderate to slight potential for erosion. The soils within the Project site have low potential for expansion and therefore present a less than significant potential impact.</p> <p><b>CUMULATIVE:</b> Not provided.</p>	None.	Less than significant.
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	<p><b>PROJECT SPECIFIC:</b> Hazardous materials or fuel could spill during transfer or fueling activities, as a result of an accident or as a result of a leaking container.</p> <p>Combustion of the windrows or other onsite combustible materials.</p> <p>Exposure to pathogens, common fungus known as <i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i>, entotoxins, or other allergens.</p> <p>Biosolids/windrows can potentially harbor vectors, such as flies, mosquitoes, and fleas.</p> <p><b>CUMULATIVE:</b> Not provided.</p>	<p>HM-1: The Project design includes guidelines for fuel transfer operations to minimize impacts associated with fueling areas and fuel transfer sites. Prior to commencement of operations, the Applicant shall submit, and the County shall review and approve an Emergency Contingency Plan for the composting facility. The Plan will provide information such as emergency contact persons and numbers, the types of hazardous materials stored on-site, the correct emergency responders to contact for specific emergencies, and evacuation procedures and routes to use during an emergency event.</p> <p>HM-2: A Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC) shall be prepared and certified prior to the</p>	Less than significant



Environmental Topic	Impact(s)	Mitigation	Conclusion
		<p>commencement of on-site operations.</p> <p>HM-3: The operator shall provide fire prevention, protection and control measures, including, but not limited to, temperature monitoring of windrows and piles, adequate water supply for fire suppression, and the isolation of potential ignition sources from combustible materials. A strip of sufficient width of cleared land must be maintained along the perimeter of site operations to act as a fire barrier or break. The applicant will consult with the local fire agency to determine the size of the fire break. Prior to construction, the Applicant shall submit, and the County shall review and approve, a plan setting out fire prevention, protection and control measures and evidence of consultation with the local fire agency.</p> <p>HM-4: Following each storm event or surface water discharge, no standing water shall be retained in the impoundment basin for more than 30 days. Water from the basin may be used for process water or for dust control on windrows.</p> <p>HM-5: Compost leachate shall be captured and may be reused to maintain compost moisture levels.</p> <p>HM-6: Perform misting or spraying of compost piles when mixing to control airborne spore movement.</p> <p>HM-7: Wash down vehicles and equipment at regular intervals to reduce dust and spore levels.</p> <p>HM-8: Employees engaged in moving or turning compost piles shall be equipped with protective clothing,</p>	

Environmental Topic	Impact(s)	Mitigation	Conclusion
		<p>gloves, and face mask. Training programs shall be instituted to instruct employees on the necessity of wearing protective gear.</p> <p>HM-9: Muscadine, or other suitable bait materials shall be distributed along the external Project boundaries of the composting pad if the LEA determines that periodic fly problems become an area nuisance.</p> <p>HM-10: Biosolids shall be mixed with suitable bulking agents within 4 hours after arrival.</p> <p>HM-11: The Applicant shall ensure that employees are-trained in procedures to prevent, detect, and remedied fly breeding areas .</p>	
<p>Hydrology and Water Quality – Construction</p>	<p><b>PROJECT SPECIFIC:</b> Grading of the storage and treatment areas would expose soils to erosion and may result in the transportation of sediment into local drainages.</p> <p>Fuel spilled during re-fueling of heavy equipment during construction or operation of the facility could degrade water quality.</p> <p><b>CUMULATIVE:</b> The County’s regional flood control plans have considered future growth. Because the scale of the Project and its alternatives do not exceed allowed types of land uses, the Project or alternatives would not result in a cumulative impact to hydrology and water quality with the implementation of project-specific mitigation measures.</p>	<p>W-4: The Applicant shall avoid and/or mitigate potentially significant impacts on water quality by obtaining coverage under the state-wide general construction storm National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit prior to any ground disturbing activities, and by complying with the terms of that permit. As part of this mitigation measure, the Applicant shall prepare a SWPPP and implement the BMPs outlined in the SWPPP.</p> <p>W-4: The Applicant shall avoid and/or mitigate potentially significant impacts on water quality by obtaining coverage under the state-wide general construction storm National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit prior to any ground disturbing activities, and by complying with the terms of that permit. As part of this mitigation measure, the Applicant</p>	<p>Less than significant</p>

Environmental Topic	Impact(s)	Mitigation	Conclusion
		<p>shall prepare a SWPPP and implement the BMPs outlined in the SWPPP.</p> <p>W-5: The Applicant shall avoid or mitigate potentially significant impacts on water quality by obtaining coverage under the State-wide general storm water NPDES permit for industrial facilities or by obtaining an individual facility storm water NPDES permit prior to commencing operations, and by complying with all terms and requirements of the permit.</p>	
<p>Hydrology and Water Quality - Operational</p>	<p><b>PROJECT SPECIFIC:</b> Runoff from biosolids windrows contains pathogens and sediment that could contaminate surface waters. The runoff also may contain constituents in concentrations that could exceed limits to be specified in Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) expected to be issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Fuel spilled during re-fueling of heavy equipment during construction or operation of the facility could degrade water quality.</p> <p><b>CUMULATIVE:</b> The County’s regional flood control plans have considered future growth. Because the scale of the Project and its alternatives do not exceed allowed types of land uses, the Project or alternatives would not result in a cumulative impact to hydrology and water quality with the implementation of project-specific mitigation measures.</p>	<p>W-1: Prior to any modification or redesign of the facility, the Applicant shall submit, and the County and the RWQCB shall approve, plans demonstration that the facility, as modified or redesigned, will have a retention basin or retention basins designed and sized to contain the entire runoff from the windrow and compost storage area during a 24-hour, 100-year storm event.</p> <p>W-2: Prior to beginning operations at the site, the Applicant shall perform a post-construction soil survey. The survey shall include collection of, at least ten samples shall be collected in the portion of the Phase 1 area that would be most frequently used for windrows. Two additional samples shall be collected from the lowest area of the retention basin after construction of the retention basin is complete. Samples shall be collected at each location using a drive sampler to a depth of approximately 1.5 feet. The samples shall be analyzed by an</p>	<p>Less than significant</p>

Environmental Topic	Impact(s)	Mitigation	Conclusion
		<p>independent laboratory and results submitted to the County and the RWQCB for review and approval. Samples collected at 0.5 and 1 foot shall be analyzed for nitrate, phosphate, chloride, arsenic, copper, lead, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, selenium and zinc. The same sampling program shall be conducted in Phase 2 prior to commencing operations in the Phase 2 area.</p> <p>W-3: Soil beneath the retention basin and the composting pad shall be sampled annually to confirm that the migration of constituents into subsurface soil is not significant. Soil sampling shall be conducted at six different locations on the most frequently used portion of the composting pad. Two soil samples shall be collected at least 100 feet apart at the lowest area of each retention basin. Samples will be collected at each location using a drive sampler to a depth of approximately 1.5 feet. Samples collected at 0.5 and 1 foot will be analyzed. Samples shall be collected by Applicant and sent to an independent laboratory, and analytical results submitted to the County and the RWQCB for review and approval. The results will be compared to the levels listed in 40 CFR 503.13, Table 1 that specifies the ceiling metals concentrations at which the application of biosolids to land is not allowed. These ceiling concentrations currently are 85 mg/kg arsenic, 4,300 mg/kg copper, 840 mg/kg lead, 57 mg/kg</p>	

Environmental Topic	Impact(s)	Mitigation	Conclusion
		<p>mercury, 75 mg/kg molybdenum, 420 mg/kg nickel, 100 mg/kg selenium and 7,500 mg/kg zinc. These ceiling concentrations will be used as an indicator that further action is necessary. There are no ceiling concentrations for nitrate and phosphorous, therefore the analytical results for the site will be compared to those from the background location.</p> <p>If the sample results indicate that the limits in 40 CFR 503.13 have been exceeded or if the levels show a significant increase compared to the background conditions, the Applicant the RWQCB, and the LEA shall develop and implement action plan that will ensure no substantial adverse impact on groundwater resources. Specific elements of the action plan shall be tailored to actual conditions. Plan elements may include, but need not be limited to: removal of soil and replacement of compacted clean soil on the pad and/or retention basin, or lining the pads or basin with an appropriate liner.</p> <p>If there are no significant exceedances of the constituent concentrations after five years of monitoring, the <del>operator</del> applicant may request, and the County may grant, approval for a reduction in the sampling frequency. Upon closure of the facility, sampling will be conducted and affected soil will be handled in accordance with applicable cleanup criteria.</p> <p>W-4: The Applicant shall avoid and/or mitigate potentially significant impacts</p>	

Environmental Topic	Impact(s)	Mitigation	Conclusion
		<p>on water quality by obtaining coverage under the state-wide general construction storm National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit prior to any ground disturbing activities, and by complying with the terms of that permit. As part of this mitigation measure, the Applicant shall prepare a SWPPP and implement the BMPs outlined in the SWPPP.</p> <p>W-5: The Applicant shall avoid or mitigate potentially significant impacts on water quality by obtaining coverage under the State-wide general storm water NPDES permit for industrial facilities or by obtaining an individual facility storm water NPDES permit prior to commencing operations, and by complying with all terms and requirements of the permit.</p> <p>W-6: If a groundwater well is installed to provide water for the site, the Applicant shall perform a groundwater survey prior to well installation. The Project proponent shall collect a sample quarterly for the first year. Samples shall be analyzed by an independent laboratory and results submitted to the County and RWQCB for review, and approval. Samples shall be analyzed for the constituents listed in Mitigation Measure W-2 (at a minimum) to establish baseline groundwater conditions at the site. If the thresholds set forth in Mitigation Measure W-3 have been exceeded, or if there is a significant increase over time in the concentration of constituents listed in Mitigation Measure W-2, the</p>	

Environmental Topic	Impact(s)	Mitigation	Conclusion
		Applicant, the County, and the RWQCB shall develop and implement an action plan that will ensure no substantial adverse change in groundwater resources. Specific elements of the action plan shall be tailored to actual conditions. Elements of the action plan may include, but are not limited to, lining composting pads and/or the retention basin with an appropriate liner.	
Land Use	<p><b>PROJECT SPECIFIC:</b> The project site is located in the Desert Region of the County of San Bernardino. Surrounding land uses to the project site include predominantly vacant desert with a single residence located over approximately 1.5 miles east of the project site. There are no residential communities for a distance of at least five miles to the north, west and south. Use of the site for composting operations will not conflict with existing surrounding land uses and there are no environmental justice issues as the surrounding land is vacant. The General Plan land use designation for the site is Resource Conservation (RC). A composting facility may be allowed in any land use district subject to review and approval of a Conditional Use Permit application under the Additional Uses section of the development code. The Project would be developed consistent with the General Plan land use goals and policies and no significant land use impacts will occur.</p> <p><b>CUMULATIVE</b> The County’s zoning allows rural land uses in the vicinity of the Hawes and Fort Cady sites. Because the proposed Project is considered an Additional Use that may be permitted through the Conditional Use Permit process, the Project or alternatives would not result in a cumulative impact to land use.</p>	None.	Less than significant.
Mineral Resources	<p><b>PROJECT SPECIFIC:</b> The proposed Project and Fort Cady Alternative sites are not within an area designated by the State for locally important mineral resources and neither lies within the County of San Bernardino’s Mineral Resource Zone. No impacts to mineral resources would occur at either the Project site or the Fort Cady site as a result . The Reduced Capacity Alternative is a virtually identical operation at the same (Hawes) site and would also have no impacts.</p>	None.	Less than significant.

Environmental Topic	Impact(s)	Mitigation	Conclusion
	<p><b>CUMULATIVE</b> Neither the Hawes or Fort Cady sites contain significant mineral resources, so the Project or alternatives do not contribute to a cumulative impact to mineral resources.</p>		
Noise	<p><b>PROJECT SPECIFIC:</b> The proposed Project site, the Fort Cady Alternative site and adjacent area to both sites are undeveloped vacant land. No persons would be exposed to and noise levels would not be generated in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies. The proposed facility operations at either site would be in compliance with the County Noise Ordinance for stationary noise sources and the County Noise Element regarding residential land uses. Noise impacts would be less than significant. The Reduced Capacity Alternative is a virtually identical operation at the same (Hawes) site and would also have less than significant impacts.</p> <p><b>CUMULATIVE</b> Not provided.</p>	None.	Less than significant.
Population and Housing	<p><b>PROJECT SPECIFIC:</b> There are no residents living on or in the immediate vicinity or either the Project or Fort Cady Alternative sites. The Project will employ approximately eight staff members from the local area. Implementation of the Project or Fort Cady Alternative would not induce growth directly or indirectly. There would be no displacement of existing housing or people. There would be no impacts to population and housing.</p> <p><b>CUMULATIVE</b> The Project would employ approximately eight people. Adequate housing exists in the area to accommodate the employees. Therefore the Project or alternatives do not contribute to a cumulative impact to population and housing.</p>	None.	Less than significant.
Public Services	<p><b>PROJECT SPECIFIC:</b> The proposed Project or the Fort Cady Alternative would not induce growth; therefore no additional public services are required. Existing public services' capacity, such as police and fire, would be adequate to serve the Project or alternative. Impacts to public services are less than significant. The Reduced Capacity Alternative is a virtually identical operation at the same (Hawes) site and would also have less than significant impacts.</p> <p><b>CUMULATIVE</b> Adequate public services exist in the area to accommodate the 8 employees. Therefore the Project or alternatives do not contribute to a cumulative impact to public services.</p>	None.	Less than significant.
Public Services (Utilities)	<p><b>PROJECT SPECIFIC:</b> The proposed Project and the Fort Cady Site Alternative would not affect or cause an increased need for additional</p>	None.	Less than significant.



Environmental Topic	Impact(s)	Mitigation	Conclusion
and Service Systems)	<p>public utilities or service systems. A maximum of eight employees are anticipated at any one time, generating a small amount of solid waste that will be transported to the Barstow Sanitary Landfill. Domestic water will be provided by an on-site well or be purchased and stored. Telephone service will be cellular. Electricity will be supplied by solar equipment, with a portable diesel-fueled generator backup. Site run-off from rainfall will be directed into a retention basin and no impacts to storm water drainage facilities is expected. Impacts to public utilities or service systems would be less than significant.</p> <p><b>CUMULATIVE</b> The Project would not require public water or sewer services. Adequate electrical services exist in the area to accommodate the utility needs. Therefore the Project or alternatives do not contribute to a cumulative impact to utilities.</p>		
Recreation	<p><b>PROJECT SPECIFIC:</b> No increase in the demand for recreation facilities will result from either the proposed Project or the Fort Cady Alternative. The area surrounding both sites includes vast amounts of open space and available recreational access. The Project does not propose construction of new recreational facilities or expansion of the existing recreational facilities. No impact to recreational facilities is expected.</p> <p><b>CUMULATIVE</b> The Project would not require additional recreational opportunities for the 8 employees. Therefore the Project or alternatives do not contribute to a cumulative impact to recreation</p>	None.	Less than significant.
Traffic Impacts - Construction	<p><b>PROJECT SPECIFIC:</b> A Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) was conducted for the proposed Project in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the San Bernardino County Congestion Management Program (CMP) 2003 Update. The TIA conducted for the proposed Project indicates that the proposed Project will not create significant traffic impacts to the surrounding roadway circulation system according to the traffic impact analysis procedures, guidelines and threshold of significance specified by San Bernardino County CMP. Additionally, the proposed Project will have adequate emergency access for both fire and medical emergency vehicles. Very low existing baseline traffic and projected operational traffic volume will not hinder emergency response times. No significant transportation impacts would occur as a result of the proposed Project.</p> <p><b>CUMULATIVE:</b> There will be cumulatively considerable traffic impacts in the Project area, mainly due to increased truck traffic at various times</p>	None.	Less than significant.

Environmental Topic	Impact(s)	Mitigation	Conclusion
	along SR 58 and local routes parallel to the highway.		
Traffic Impacts - Operational	<p><b>PROJECT SPECIFIC:</b> A Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) was conducted for the proposed Project in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the San Bernardino County Congestion Management Program (CMP) 2003 Update. The TIA conducted for the proposed Project indicates that the proposed Project will not create significant traffic impacts to the surrounding roadway circulation system according to the traffic impact analysis procedures, guidelines and threshold of significance specified by San Bernardino County CMP. Additionally, the proposed Project will have adequate emergency access for both fire and medical emergency vehicles. Very low existing baseline traffic and projected operational traffic volume will not hinder emergency response times. No significant transportation impacts would occur as a result of the proposed Project.</p> <p><b>CUMULATIVE Traffic Impacts</b> There will be cumulatively considerable traffic impacts in the Project area, mainly due to increased truck traffic at various times along SR 58 and local routes parallel to the highway.</p>	None.	Less than significant.