

SECTION 1 SUMMARY OF THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

The Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the Nursery Product Hawes Composting Facility project (State Clearinghouse No. 2006051021) has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the guidelines for the implementation of CEQA. Hereafter, the Initial Study, Notice of Preparation, Notice of Availability, Draft EIR, Technical Studies, and Final EIR containing Responses to Comments and including the Mitigation Monitoring and Compliance Program constitute the EIR for this project. These documents will be referred to collectively as the EIR.

The persons, organizations, and public agencies that have submitted comments on the Draft EIR through November 13, 2006, are listed in Section 2.0 of the FEIR. A total of 230 comment letters were received.

The individual comment letters submitted regarding the DEIR and individual responses to each comment are included in Section 3.0 of the FEIR. The primary objective and purpose of the EIR public review process is to obtain comments on the adequacy of the analysis of environmental impacts, the mitigation measures presented, and other analyses contained in the report. CEQA requires that the County respond to all significant environmental issues raised (*CEQA Guidelines* Section 15088). The County's response to environmental issues, "... must be good faith, reasoned analysis." Comments that do not directly relate to the analysis in this document (i.e., are outside the scope of this document) are not given specific responses. However, all comments are included in this section so that the decision-making body for the proposed project is aware of the opinions of public agencies, organizations, and the general public.

In the process of responding to the comments, portions of the Draft EIR have been revised. Section 4.0 of the FEIR identifies those portions of the DEIR that have been revised subsequent to the release of the document for public review. Per *CEQA Guidelines* (Section 15088.5[a]), "... New information added to an EIR is not 'significant' unless the EIR is changed in a way that deprives the public of a meaningful opportunity to comment upon a substantial adverse environmental effect of the project of a feasible way to mitigate or avoid such an effect (including a feasible project alternative) that the project's proponents have declined to implement." The revisions to the DEIR consist primarily of clarifications of previously stated information or the inclusion of data that supports the previously prepared analysis. None of the revisions to the DEIR prepared for the Nursery Products Hawes Composting Facility project are considered to be significant new information that would require the recirculation of the EIR.

Section 5.0 includes the Mitigation Monitoring and Compliance Program (MMCP) prepared for the proposed project. As required by State law (Public Resources Code, Section 21081.6), the MMRP has been prepared to ensure compliance with the mitigation measures adopted for the proposed project by the County of San Bernardino. Public Resources Code, Section 21081.6 requires the adoption of a reporting or monitoring program for those conditions placed on a project to mitigate or avoid adverse effects on the environment.