



Alameda Creek Alliance

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December 28, 2004

Brian Matthews, Program Manager
Alameda County Waste Management Authority
777 Davis Street, Suite 100
San Leandro, CA 94577

Dear Brian Matthews:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the proposed Alameda County Waste Management Authority (ACWMA) Organics Processing Development Program and Project. The Alameda Creek Alliance (ACA) is a non-profit community watershed group with over 1,200 members and supporters, working to protect and restore the natural ecosystems of the Alameda Creek watershed. We have a strong interest in protecting native fish and amphibian species that inhabit the Sunol Valley in the vicinity of the proposed project.

Through past phone conversations and at the public scoping hearing for the project, I have communicated the concern of the ACA that the undeveloped site at Andrade Road site may not be an appropriate location for the compost facility since it will destroy habitat for native species and may have indirect impacts on numerous sensitive species. We believe the site selection process for the facility was fatally flawed, since the proposed facility was linked to a specific project site rather than determining the best location for the project and then designing a facility. As a result, the ACWMA has chosen the project location with the most significant impacts to listed and sensitive species. We propose that the ACWMA reinitiate the site selection process and choose a more urban site or a site that already handles waste products, and that will not result in destruction or conversion of undeveloped land that is potential wildlife habitat.

The ACA believes the project may have significant indirect impacts on the federally threatened California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander (which are known to occur in close proximity to the proposed project) that are unaddressed in the DEIR, specifically attraction or artificial elevation of local populations of amphibian predators.

Sincerely,

Jeff Miller
Director, ACA

- Protecting and restoring the natural ecosystems of the Alameda Creek watershed -