

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisor Jeff Stone

SUBMITTAL DATE: October 4, 2013

SUBJECT: Promote Responsible Outreach To Expanding Composting Terrain (PROTECT) in
COACHELLA and INDIO

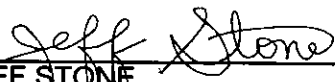
RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Take public testimony from elect officials and citizens from the cities potentially impacted and give appropriate direction to staff overseeing this expansion project.

BACKGROUND:

The Board of Supervisors held a historic meeting in the Coachella Valley on October 1st 2013. It was well attended and well received by Coachella Valley elected officials as well as several residents. During this historic meeting, elected officials from Coachella and Indio expressed deep concerns about the impacts to their respective communities regarding the proposed and potential expansion of the County's Coachella Valley Compost Operation.

The concerns raised were many, including why the project was fast tracked and why it was introduced and the comment period held in the peak of summer when many are vacationing and the weather is unbearable for those who may want to leave their air conditioned homes to attend and voice concerns. Concerns were expressed that this project could double the size of the composting area and triple the quantity of compost and non-compostable organic material from 250 tons per day to approximately 800 tons per day. Additionally, the site operation schedule would increase from six days per week to seven days with the number of permitted vehicles increasing from 169 to 536 per day, generating almost 3 times the traffic and related emissions! Further, the composting site would include food waste and increase the maximum grease allowance from 12,500 gallons to 55,000 gallons per day!


JEFF STONE
Supervisor - Third District

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The reminder is still fresh from the Cal Bio Mass debacle in Thermal earlier this year that mixing green waste with grease will generate obnoxious odors. The County's cost to mitigate the odors at Cal Bio Mass was over \$1 million dollars of taxpayer money. This abatement was to help the Trilogy residents in La Quinta impacted by the stench from piles of odiferous green waste laced with grease. The communities adjacent to the composting facility expansion fear the same problem will impact them, and wonder what will be the cost to the County's taxpayers to abate and mitigate yet another mess.

The communities have made compelling arguments that a negative declaration, as opposed to a full environmental impact report, is inadequate and unacceptable to identify the potential impacts and order the appropriate mitigation measures. My office was contacted by elected officials adjacent to the composting facility requesting that I placed this issue on the agenda so their concerns can be appropriately heard and vetted by the full Board of Supervisors.