

Source: RCH Group

**Figure 1**  
Regional Map

# AGE GULCH ORGANICS MPOST FACILITY

## SCOPING PRESENTATION



# Scoping Meeting Agenda

- Introduction to the Project Team
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process
- Overview of the Proposed Project
- CEQA topics and EIR schedule
- Submittal of Public Scoping Comments
- Public Comments

# Introduction to the Project Team

- Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department (Permit Sonoma) – Lead Agency  
Crystal Acker, Project Planner  
Sonoma County Project Review Division



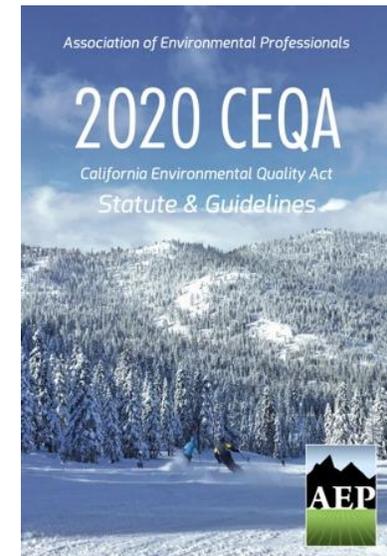
- RCH Group – CEQA Consultant



# California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Permit Sonoma is the CEQA Lead Agency for the Proposed Project.

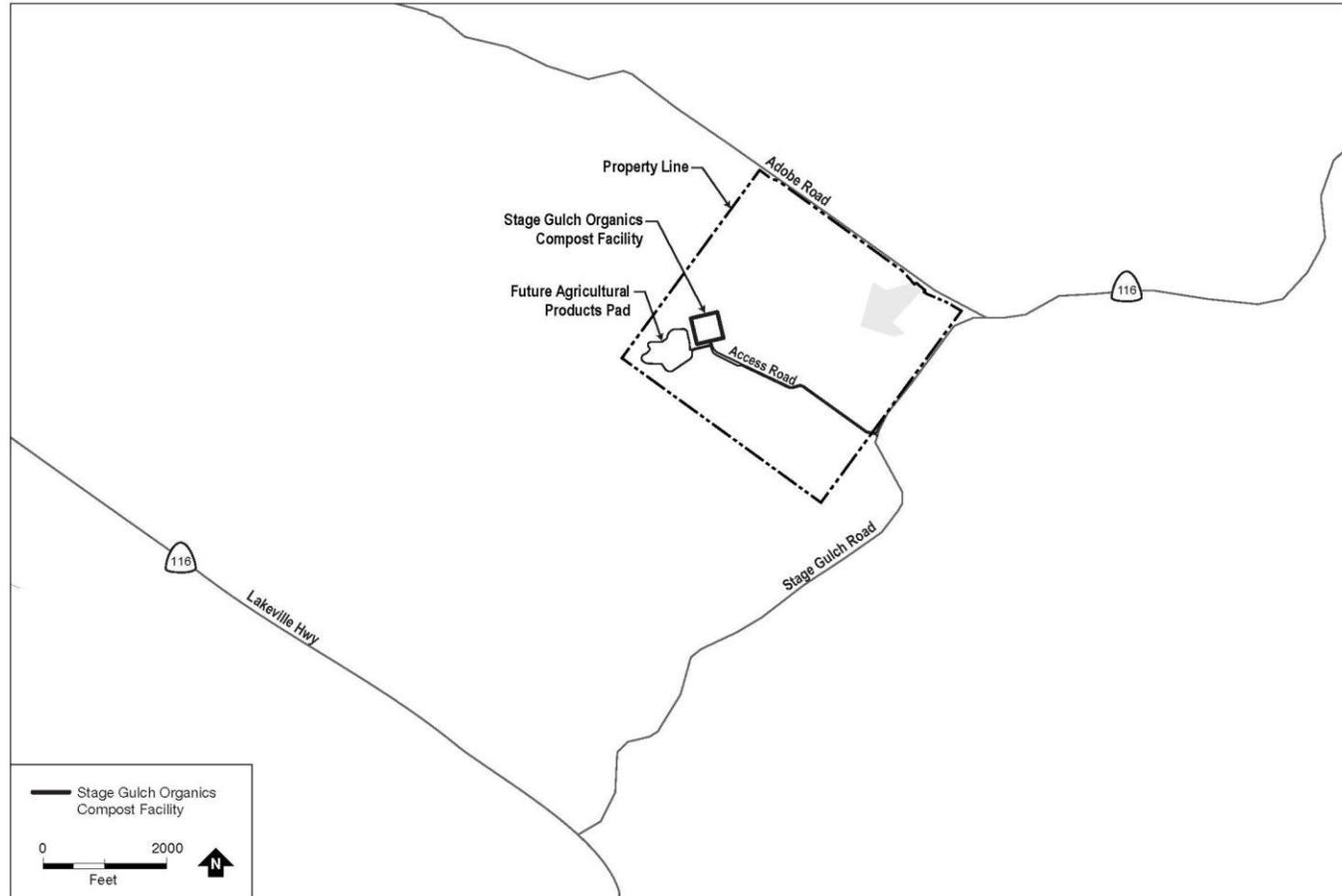
Permit Sonoma is Sonoma County's consolidated land use planning and development permitting agency. Virtually any land development or construction that takes place in the unincorporated area of Sonoma County (outside the nine incorporated cities) is reviewed, permitted, and inspected by Permit Sonoma.



# Purpose of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

- **INFORM** decision makers and the public of the potential environmental effects of the project
- **ENGAGE** the public in the environmental review process
- **DISCLOSE** potential project impacts on the environment
- **AVOID OR REDUCE** potential impacts of the project by implementing mitigation measures and/or project alternatives

# Project Area Map



Source: RCH Group

Figure 2  
Project Area Map

# Project Location

- Part of the 384.57-acre property at 2535 Stage Gulch Road in unincorporated Sonoma County (same ownership)
- Proposed project site is approximately 2.5 miles east of Petaluma
- Access would come from a private road to be constructed off of Stage Gulch Road
- Composting is on 7-acre pad next to a 9-acre Agricultural Products Pad
- Composting would be approximately 3/4 miles west of the intersection of Adobe Road and Stage Gulch Road (State Route 116)

# Project Objectives

- Develop a State-of-the-Art compost facility on 7-acres applicant-controlled property at 2535 Stage Gulch Road
- Provide a countywide solution for commercial composting
- Provide high-quality compost products that will support agricultural users
- Minimize potential negative environmental effects of the Project through design features and operational Best Management Practices

# Project Description Overview

- Construction and operation of a composting facility with an advanced, circular-turned aerated pile (cTAP) composting system designed to process 185,000 tons organic materials per year
- 557' x 557' concrete aerated pad for composting operations and minor structures
- Agricultural Products Pad – 9-acre pad for storing amendments and finished compost and making custom agricultural blends and planter mixes





# Compost Support Project Features

- Small office, operations control building, employee breakroom and bathroom (adjacent to compost pad), standard in-ground septic system per Sonoma County standards, Entrance/Exit scales; and Parking
- Stockpile and storage areas for finished compost
- Biofilters and stormwater storage containment structures (at 4 corners)
- Water sources include:
  - Class A potable water for office and personnel
  - Compost process water includes:
    - (1) Water collected in containment structures
    - (2) Reclaimed water from City of Petaluma
    - (3) Existing Permitted Reservoir

# Compost Photos



Initial Screening/Grinding



Compost Pile Turner

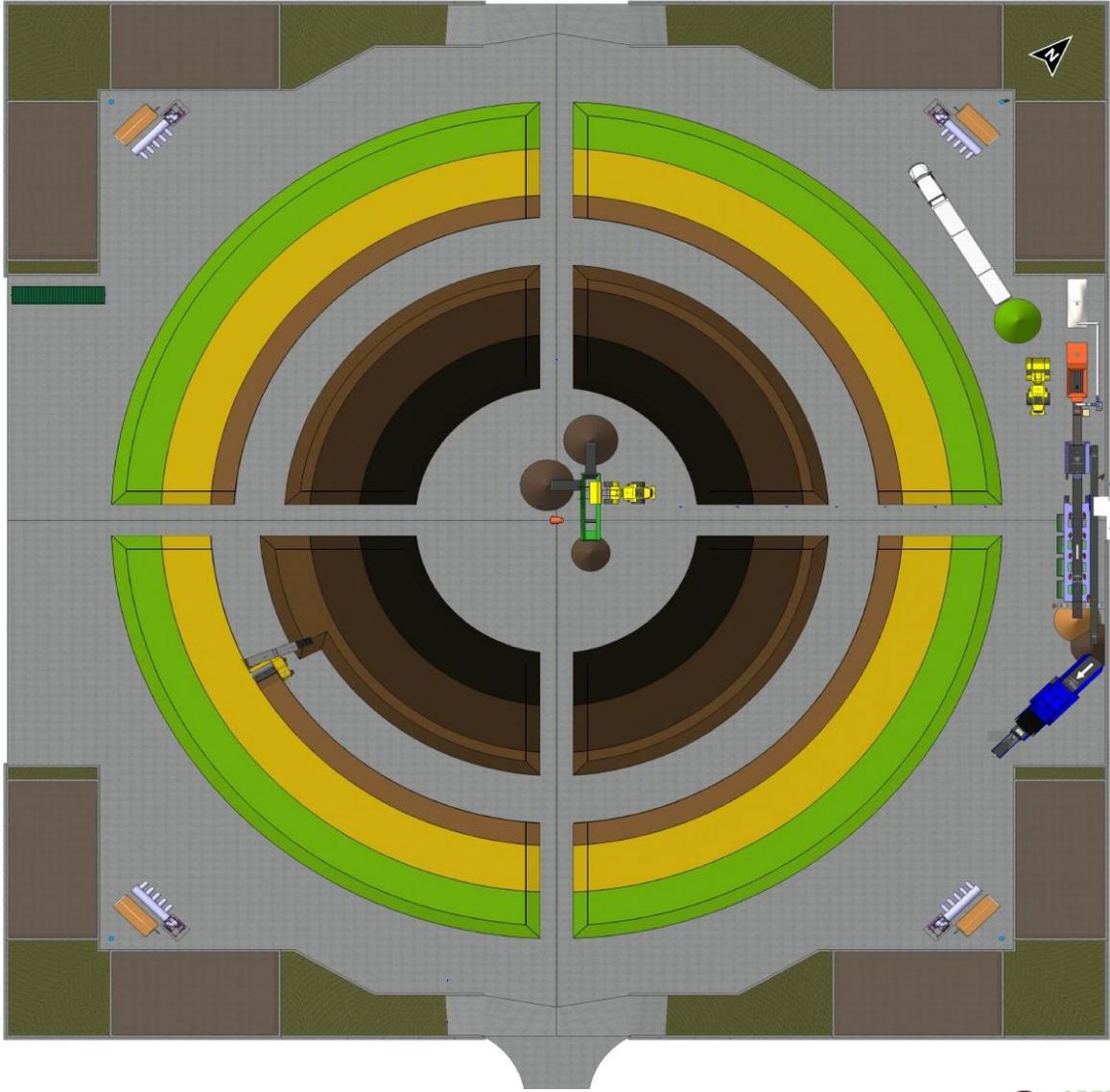


Finished Compost

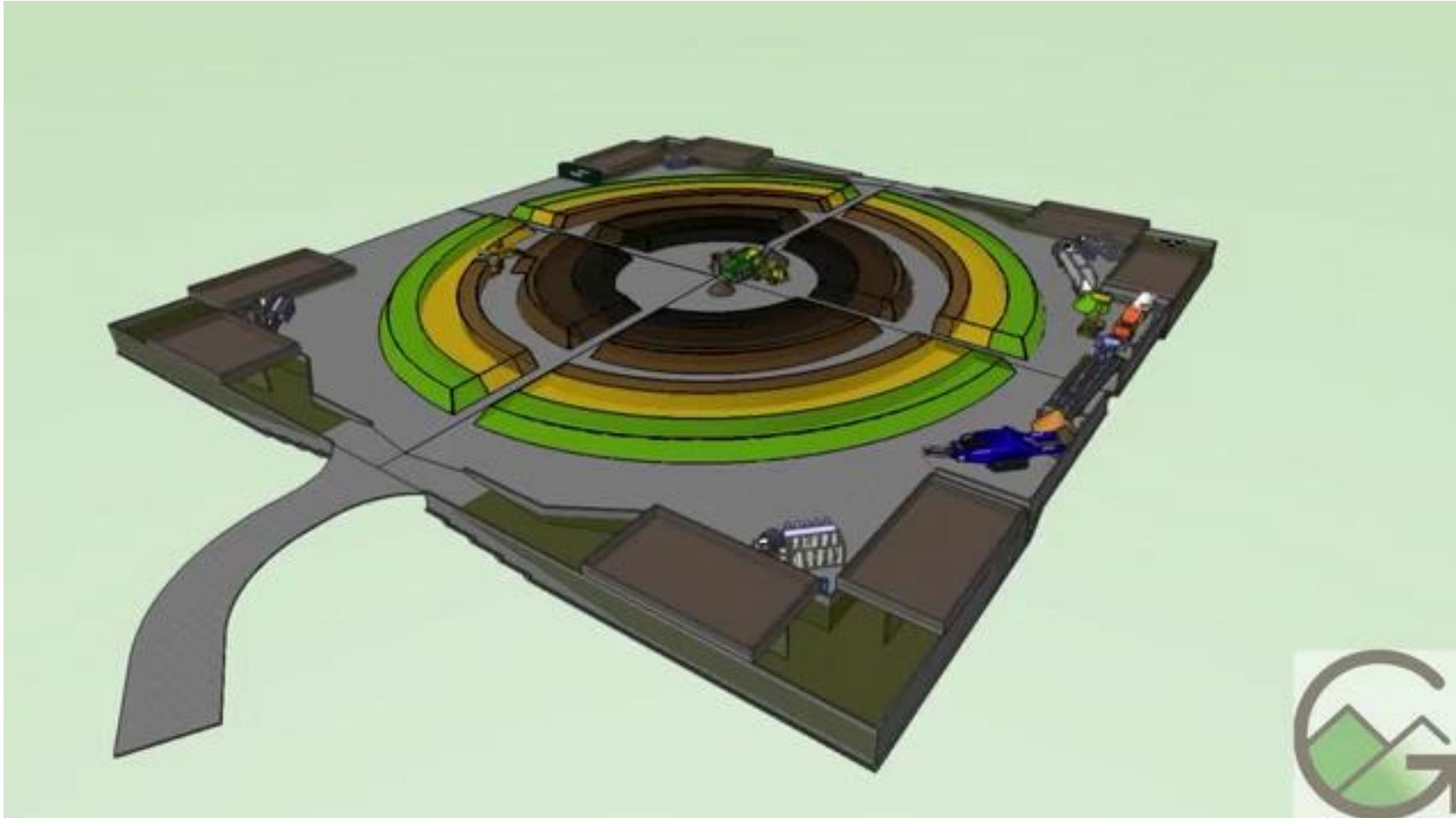


Compost to Vineyards

# Circular Turned Aerated Pile (cTAP) System Design



# cTAP System Design – Video



# Proposed Project Odor Impact Minimization Plan

As required by the State, the proposed project would implement a plan to minimize the potential for offsite odors. This would include:

- Woodchip biofilters (at 4 corners) and biocovers over active compost
- Processing any particularly odorous materials or loads as soon as possible upon receipt at the Facility
- Monitor weather conditions and modifying operations as needed (e.g., cease operations in high winds)
- Careful management of composting process including maintaining proper temperature, oxygen, nitrogen, and moisture levels
- Good housekeeping practices (e.g., clean litter, equipment, alley ways)

# Purpose of an EIR

Purposes of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR):

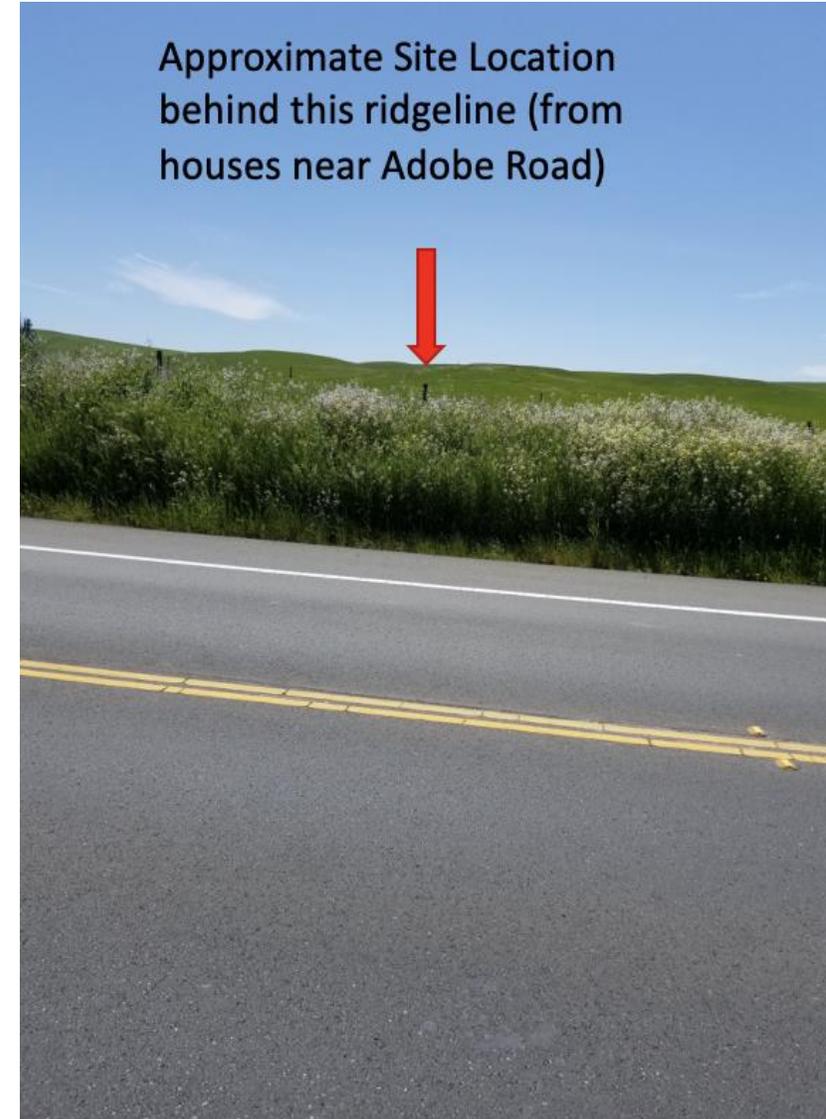
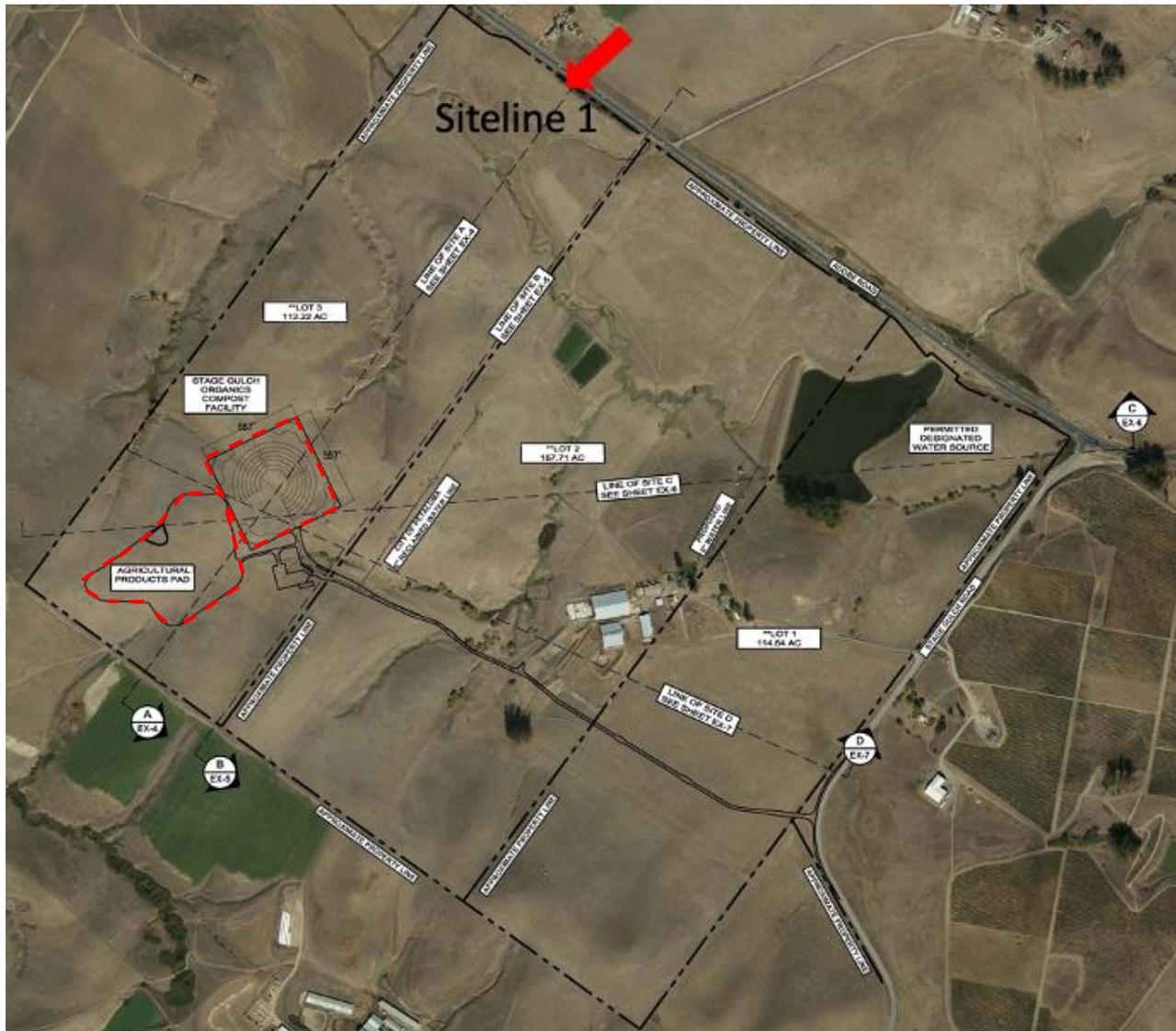
- EIRs are required for projects that may have one or more significant environmental impacts
- Identify potential physical environmental impacts of the project
- Inform the public and public agency decision-makers prior to project approval/disapproval
- Recommend Mitigation Measures to reduce significant effects
- Consider project alternatives that may reduce potential impacts

# Environmental Topics in the EIR

The EIR will describe the reasonably foreseeable and potentially significant adverse effects of the Project (both direct and indirect). Each of the following CEQA environmental topics will be addressed in the EIR, including:

- Aesthetics/Visual
- Agricultural and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire
- Cumulative Effects

# Siteline 1



# Siteline 2



# Siteline 3



# Transportation Impacts/Traffic Control Features

- At maximum capacity, the project trips would be 185 vehicles per day. With 100 being incoming feedstock commercial deliveries. The remainder includes 20 employees and other incoming and outgoing deliveries.
- The Proposed Project would not be open to the general public. Open to commercial vehicles only.
- Trucks would enter and exit Stage Gulch Road with right turns only.
- The facility would be closed for commercial deliveries at 3 p.m. to eliminate adding these trucks to the evening (p.m.) peak hour traffic.
- EIR will review new State/County thresholds for Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT).

# Permits and Entitlements

- Project requires County approval of a Conditional Use Permit, Williamson Act Partial Recission, and County design and site plan reviews.
- Other required entitlements include a Solid Waste Facilities Permit, Grading/erosion and building permits, and road improvement approvals
- EIR will list additional permits that may be needed from Federal, State, and Regional Agencies

# EIR Schedule

- Notice of Preparation (NOP) Circulated: November 25<sup>th</sup> to December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- Draft EIR: Second Quarter of 2021
- Final EIR: 2021

# EIR Public Scoping Comments

Focus comments on environmental topics

- Significant environmental concerns
- Information that would help analysis
- Methods and level of analysis
- Measures to avoid or reduce environmental impacts
- Reasonable project alternatives

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

Environmental documents including the Notice of Preparation are available online at:

<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/PRMD/Planning/Stage-Gulch-Organics-Compost-Facility/>

# HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS

Verbal Comments at this Meeting:

## **Comment Instructions:**

To raise and lower your hand:

### [App](#)

Locate the **Raise Hand** feature

### [Keyboard](#)

Press the **Alt & Y** keys together

### [By Phone](#)

Press **\*9**

Written Comments after this Meeting:

You may submit written comments by:

December 28, 2020 at 5 P.M.

To Crystal Acker at;

[Crystal.Acker@Sonoma-county.org](mailto:Crystal.Acker@Sonoma-county.org)

or

**Crystal Acker**

County of Sonoma

PRMD

2550 Ventura Avenue

Santa Rosa, CA 95403