



# South Coast Air Quality Management District

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*Office of the Executive Officer  
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January 26, 2010

American Academy of Environmental Engineering  
c/o Award Committee  
130 Holiday Court, Suite 100  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Excellence in Environmental Engineering Award

Dear Members of the Award Selection Panel:

This letter has been written in support of the selection of the Inland Empire Regional Composting Facility's (IERCF) submittal for award for excellence in the environmental engineering field. The IERCF is an example of the ability to provide environmentally conscious design and operation, while providing a regionally sustainable solution to biosolids management within the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD).

The AQMD staff is proud to have worked closely with the Inland Empire Regional Composting Authority (IERCA) on the planning, permitting and construction of this flagship project. In 2003, the AQMD developed Rule 1133.2 to outline requirements needed to reduce emissions associated with co-composting operations. The IERCA worked closely with AQMD staff to effectively implement these rule requirements into the design and construction of the IERCF. These rules include operation within the confines of an enclosed facility and emission control of volatile organic compounds and ammonia. The IERCA has further demonstrated their commitment to environmental sustainability through the implementation of 1-MW of clean, renewable solar power and the use of recycled water within the IERCF.

The regional environmental benefits that this project has provided set the example for composting operations of the future. The SCAQMD recognizes and appreciates the commitment and leadership of the IERCA to implement this first-of-a-kind project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry R. Wallerstein", is written over a horizontal line.

Barry R. Wallerstein, D. Env.  
Executive Officer

BRW/drw