

Summary of Assembly Bill (AB) 411 and Senate Bill (SB) 279

On October 11, 2025, AB 411, also known as the Caring About the Terrain, Livestock, and Ecosystems (CATTLE) act, and SB 279 were approved by the governor and filed with the Secretary of State. This document summarizes the bills and highlights changes made to the applicable requirements described in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (14 CCR). Rulemaking will be needed to amend 14 CCR to incorporate the new bill-related changes. In the meantime, if there is an inconsistency between the bills and 14 CCR, then deference should be given to the bills.

AB 411: CATTLE Act

AB 411 added section 19348 to the Food and Agricultural Code to authorize the composting of livestock carcasses resulting from a routine livestock mortality event or on-farm processing if all the following requirements are met:

1. Carcass composting is conducted in accordance with best management practices (BMPs) adopted by CDFA in collaboration with CalRecycle and State Water Resources Control Board.
 - **Note that the BMPs are still under development by CDFA. Therefore, activities cannot occur or comply with this requirement until the BMPs are finalized and adopted by CDFA.**
2. The total amount of composting material onsite at any one time does not exceed 100 cubic yards, inclusive of livestock carcasses.
3. All composting material, including livestock carcasses, comes from an agricultural site or sites owned or leased by the owner of the livestock carcasses.
4. Composting occurs on an agricultural site owned or leased by the owner of the livestock carcasses. If the activity occurs at a location that is not the site where the carcasses were generated:
 - The activity shall occur in the county in which the carcass was generated or within an adjacent county.
 - Transportation of the carcasses shall comply with all applicable state and local laws and regulations.
5. Cured compost is applied to an agricultural site owned or leased by the owner of the livestock carcasses that produced the cured compost and in compliance with the BMPs.
6. The operator of the composting operation notifies the local enforcement agency (EA) and the regional water quality control board of the facility within 30 days of commencing operation, including the location and operator contact information.

AB 411 Summary Table

	AB 411
Authority reference	Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) Section 19384.2.
Activity type	Routine livestock mortality event or on-farm carcass composting conducted in accordance with BMPs adopted by CDFA (BMPs have not been finalized and adopted by CDFA)
Feedstock limits	All material including livestock carcasses comes from an agricultural site or sites owned or leased by owner
Capacity limits	100 cubic yards inclusive of livestock carcasses
Compost limits	Cured compost can only be applied on-site
Notification requirements	Notify EA and regional water quality control board within 30 days of commencing operations

SB 279: Solid waste: Compostable Materials

SB 279 added section 44019 to the Public Resources Code (PRC) to include:

Cubic yard limit increase for small-scale composting

Composting green material, agricultural material, food material, and vegetative food material, alone or in combination, onsite at any one time does not exceed either of the following:

- 200 cubic yards, or
- 500 cubic yards for a composting activity owned by a public agency, as defined.

The bill also eliminates the square footage limit described in 14 CCR section 17855(a)(4).

Sell or give away limit increase for agricultural activities

An agricultural activity listed described in 14 CCR section 17855(a)(1) and an agricultural operation described in section 14 CCR 17856(d)(1)(A) may sell or give away up to 5,000 cubic yards annually, an increase from 1,000 cubic yards.

Excluded activity: Large-scale biomass management events

The composting of agricultural materials and residues from a large-scale biomass management event at an agricultural facility is excluded from the compostable material handling requirements with the following parameters:

- Composting may include acquiring and using agricultural materials, agricultural byproduct materials, and manure from an offsite agricultural facility to blend with onsite material and residues resulting from the event
 - Does not include offsite or onsite animal carcasses or byproducts

- Records shall be maintained for at least five years identifying the origin of materials acquired from offsite sources and be made available to the EA upon request.
- This activity shall not be excluded more than once every 10 years.
- The composting of materials shall not exceed 24 months.

SB 279 Summary Table

	SB 279
Authority reference	14 CCR section 17855(A)(4) Small-scale composting
Capacity limits	400-200 cubic yards 750 square feet 500 cubic yards (public agency owned)
Authority reference	14 CCR section 17855(a)(1) Agricultural activities 14 CCR section 17856(d)(1)(A) Agricultural operations
Annual sell/give away limit	4,000 5,000 cubic yards
Authority reference	Section 17855 Excluded Activities Large scale biomass management event
Feedstock types	On-site agricultural materials and residues Off-site agricultural materials (including manure) and agricultural by-product materials
Feedstock limits	No on-site or off-site animal carcasses or animal byproducts
Composting period limit	Shall not exceed 24 months
Records	Maintain at least five years for off-site material origin and presented to EA upon request

*Summary Table Notes:

(1) Highlighted texts indicate texts from 14 CCR and bold texts indicate texts from SB 279.

(2) Strikethrough texts are existing regulations from 14 CCR that is superseded by SB 279.