



AIR ISSUES & REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

A Committee of the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies

The AIR Committee's History

Over the years, the AIR Committee has updated Bay Area POTWs on important regulatory information and worked with local and State regulatory agencies to ensure that the viewpoints of both large and small Bay Area POTWs are taken into account. We represent “one voice” to the regulatory agencies, speaking on behalf of the majority of the POTWs in the Bay Area, and public utilities statewide have benefited from our efforts.

Regulatory News

The AIR Committee will continue to condense the vast amount of regulatory news streaming from national, state, and local agencies into bullet points relevant to Bay Area POTWs. In Phase 23 (FY 2009-2010), the AIR Committee began to track funding opportunities and became closely tied with the California Wastewater Climate Change Group (CWCCG) as the climate change and energy-related regulatory developments grew in leaps and bounds.

Regulatory Advocacy

Together we have proactively assisted in the development of regulatory programs by ensuring that they are based on good science and are physically and financially feasible for our public utilities. We have also shared information, developed comprehensive compliance programs, and formed solid relationships with each other and with our regulatory agencies. These relationships produce universally beneficial results: producing forward thinking input and strengthening our lobbying as regulations impacting Bay Area POTWs are constantly changing. One of the AIR Committee's primary goals in Phase 24 is to host regulatory agencies, such as BAAQMD and EPA representatives, at meetings in 2010-2011.

THE AIR COMMITTEE HAD A VERY SUCCESSFUL PHASE 23 (2009 – 2010), THE COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDED:

- Attended a CA Air Resources Board workshop on implementation of the AB 32 Scoping Plan and disseminated information to the AIR Committee and developed a summary to the Board that outlined the impact to the wastewater/water sector.
- Published AIR Committee 2010 Winter Newsletter
- Sponsored another successful BACWA workshop on the AB 32 Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gases at SFPUC.
- Sent Renée Lawver/CARB a letter that summarized member comments regarding the Mandatory Reporting process which was well received and incorporated.

- Sent the EPA a letter and follow-up letter regarding the proposed National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for reciprocating internal combustion engines (RICE), specifically as it applies to digester gas fueled engines. The letters were based on the helpful feedback of committee members. EPA staff appreciated the feedback and we have now established an open dialogue with them.
- AB 32 Mandatory Reporting Fact Sheet was developed for the Board and AIR Committee.
- Stephanie Cheng participated in the Board retreat and presented on “GHG Reporting” and “Clean Air Program Issues – What’s Next”
- AIR Committee has developed a new webpage on the BACWA website that includes grant tracking information for members.
- In the early fall of 2009, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) published proposed new CEQA air quality thresholds of significance for greenhouse gas, criteria pollutants and precursors, risks and hazards, and odor. The AIR Committee and CWCCG researched the new thresholds and the CWCCG submitted a comment letter. The BAAQMD has incorporated comments in the revised guidelines that they plan to approve this summer.
- A technical memorandum was developed on the applicability of the EPA Mandatory Reporting of GHGs to WWTPs based on discussions with the EPA.

Thank you for your continued support!


Stephanie Cheng
AIR Committee Chair