

Regulatory Hot Topics

BACWA Pardee Technical Seminar

October 26, 2017

Overview

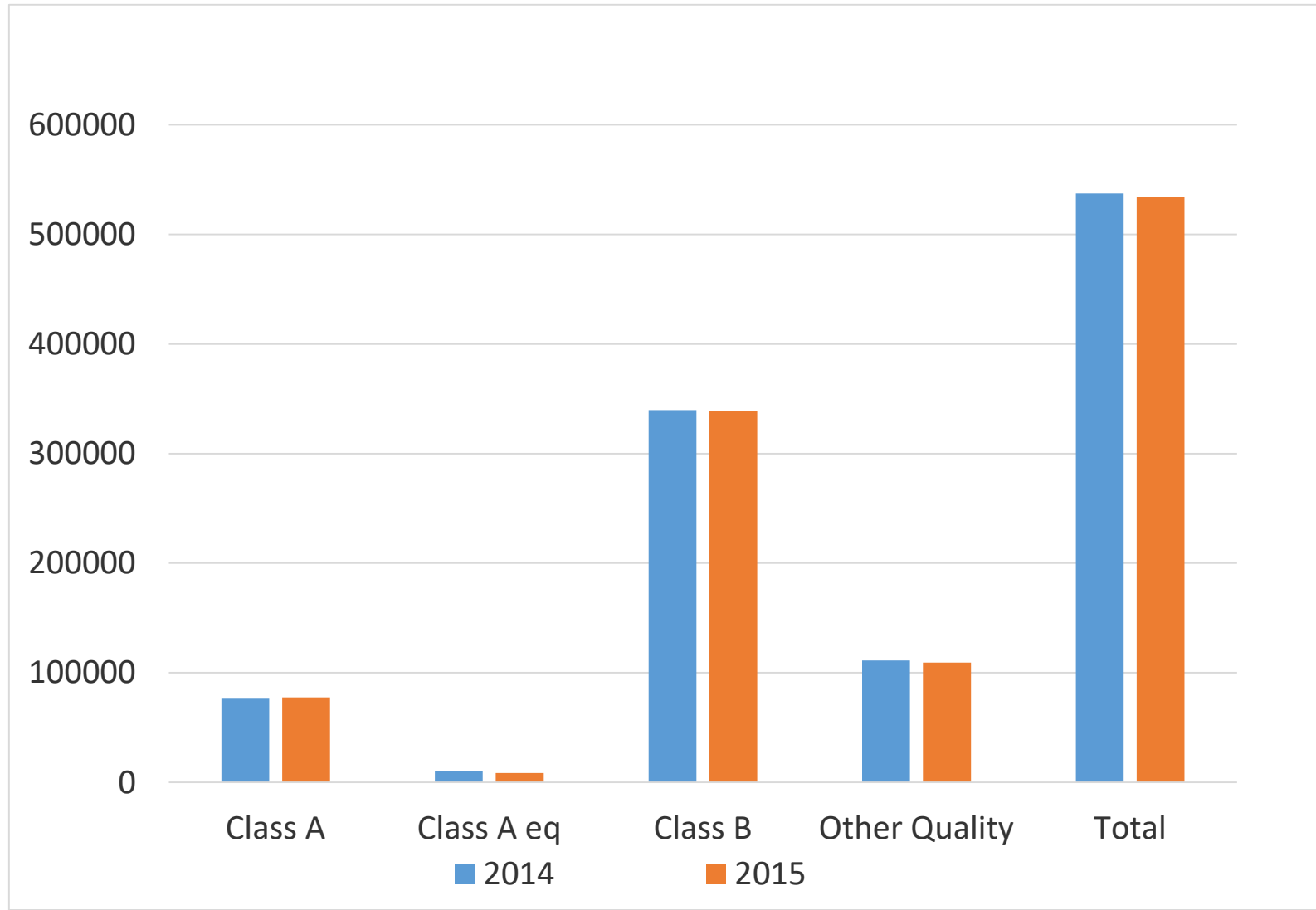
1. Biosolids Survey
2. Collection system issues (i.e. blending, PSL, capital projects) in NPDES permits
3. PCB/Hg WS Permit Testimony
4. CEC Voluntrary Participation
5. Ocean Protection Strategy and microplastics
6. ELAP

1. First BACWA Biosolids Trends Survey Conducted in 2016

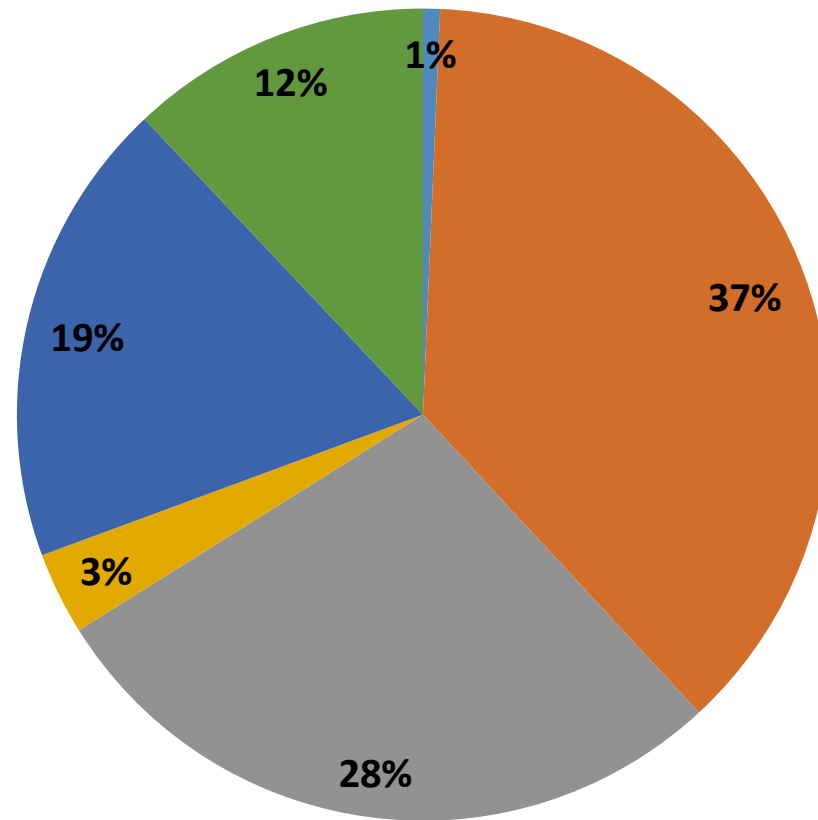
- Based on SCAP survey from 2015
- Responses from 31 BACWA member agencies representing 95% of flow in Region 2
- Questions about biosolids production, management, and planning
- Survey to be repeated in 2018



Wet tons of biosolids produced by respondents

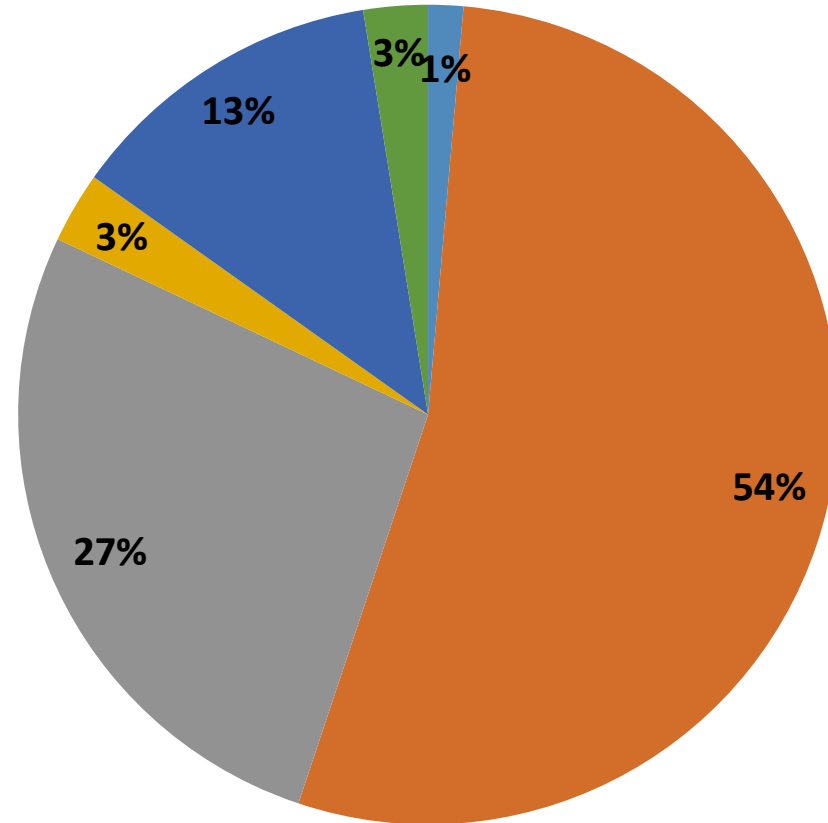


Reuse applications by wet tonnage



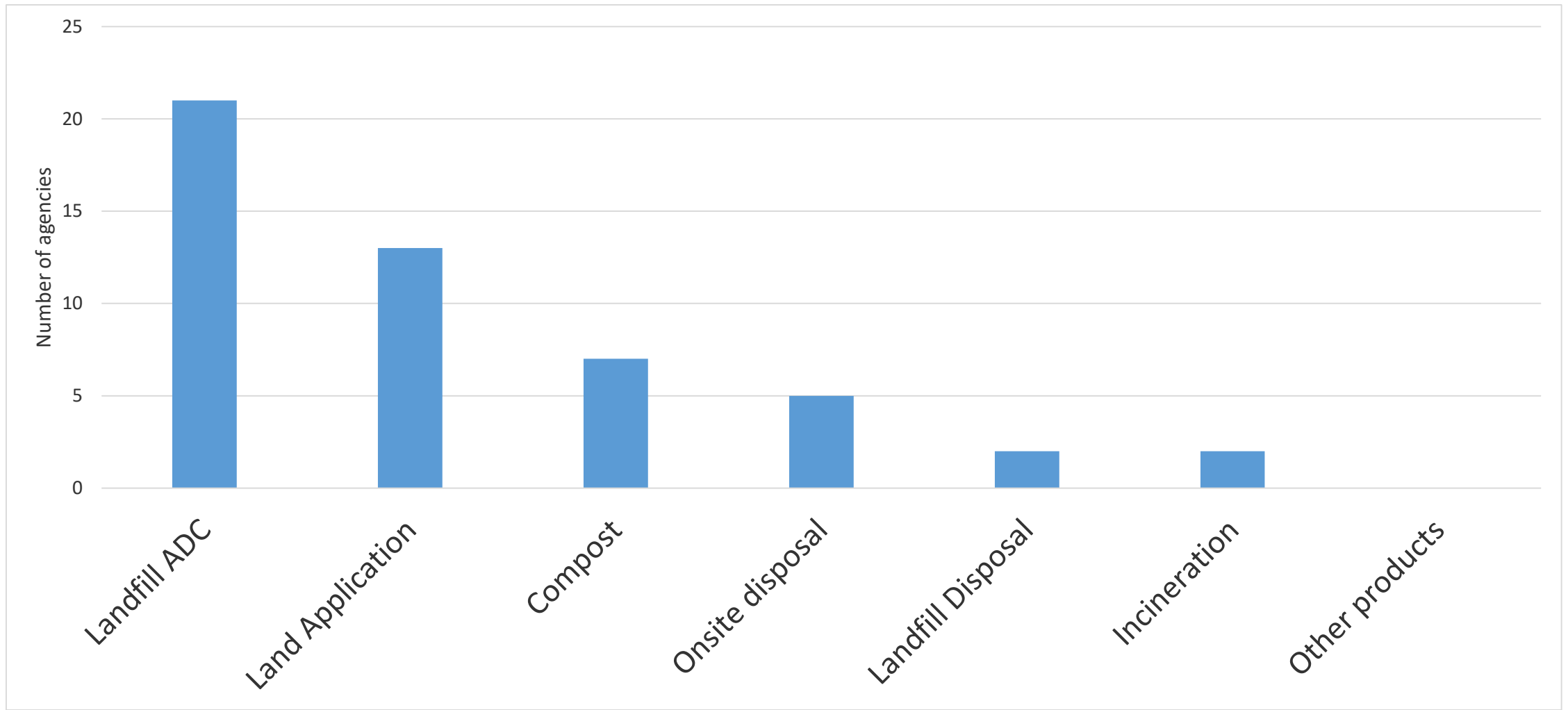
■ Landfill Disposal ■ Landfill ADC ■ Land Application ■ Compost ■ Incineration ■ Onsite disposal

Reuse applications by dry tonnage

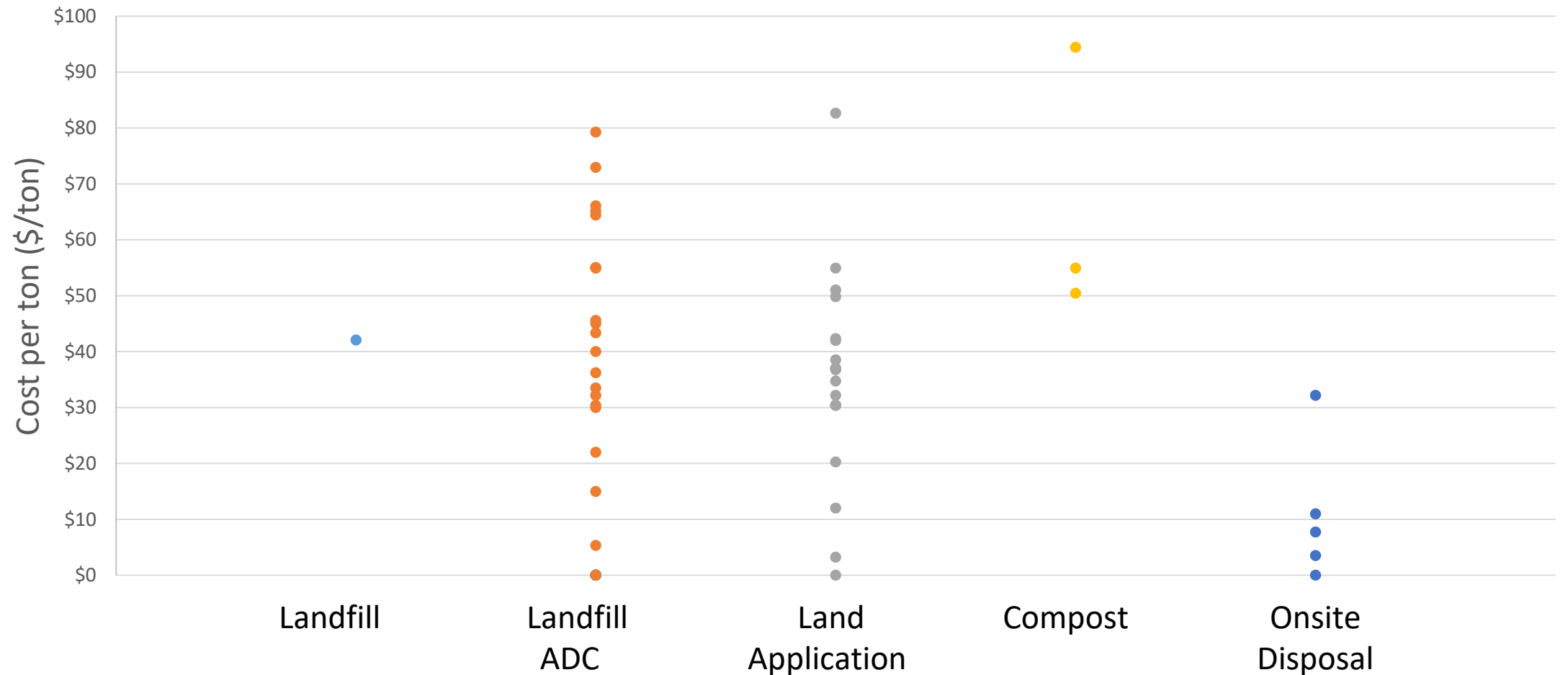


■ Landfill Disposal ■ Landfill ADC ■ Land Application ■ Compost ■ Incineration ■ Onsite disposal

Number of agencies (of 31) using reuse/disposal alternatives



Costs for reuse alternatives



Challenges to biosolids programs

- Rising costs
- Regulatory restrictions on using biosolids for alternative daily cover
- Securing long term disposal options
- Hauling distance
- Public perception/relations
- Space for drying operations
- Local restrictions on land application
- Wet weather impeding drying operations

Long term outlook

- Regulatory/Legislative drivers to phase out ADC by 2025:
 - CARB called for a 75% of all organics in landfills by 2025 in the Proposed Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy
 - AB 341 set a goal to recycle 75% of solid waste by 2020 and CalRecycle's plan to achieve that goal called for a marked, but unquantified, reduction of organics to landfills
 - In 2020, CalRecycle will count green waste as disposal (per AB 1594), rather than diversion, when used as ADC
 - SB 1383, adopted in September 2016, mandates reduction of methane, and 75% diversion of organics from landfills by 2025
- **Of the thirty-one responding agencies, only twelve have concrete plans for beyond 2025.**

2. Collection Systems – blending

- Blending agencies' permits are coming up for renewal
- So far:
 - Vallejo – Had PSL Ordinance requirement in TO that was dropped by Water Board in final Permit
 - CMSA – Satellite Collection Systems included in Tentative Order along with projects and schedule to reduce I/I

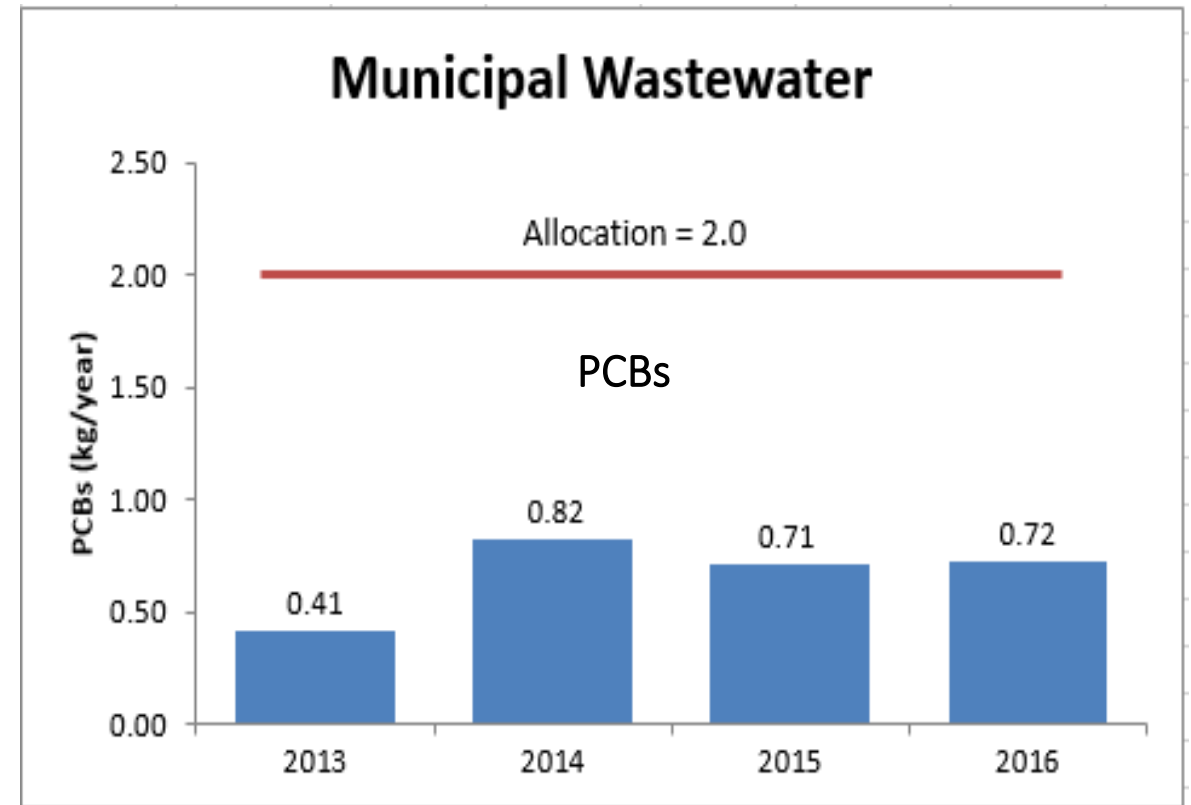
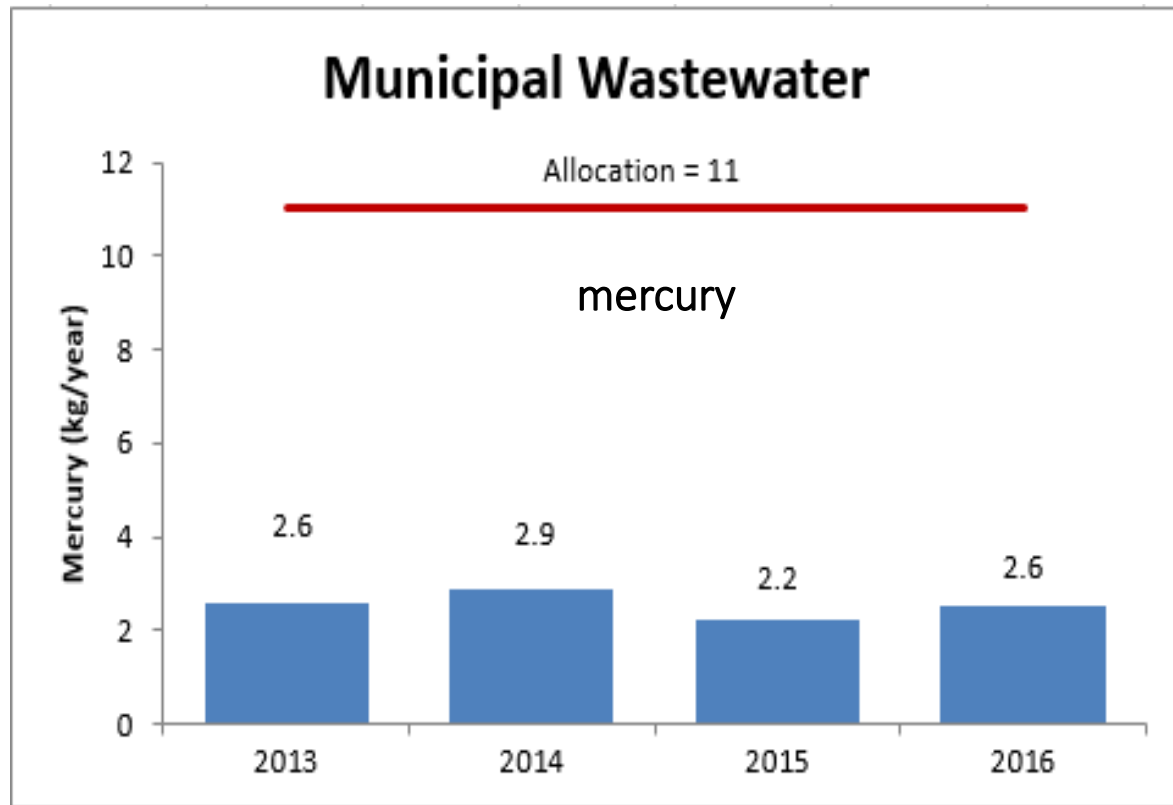


Discussions with Water Board on blending

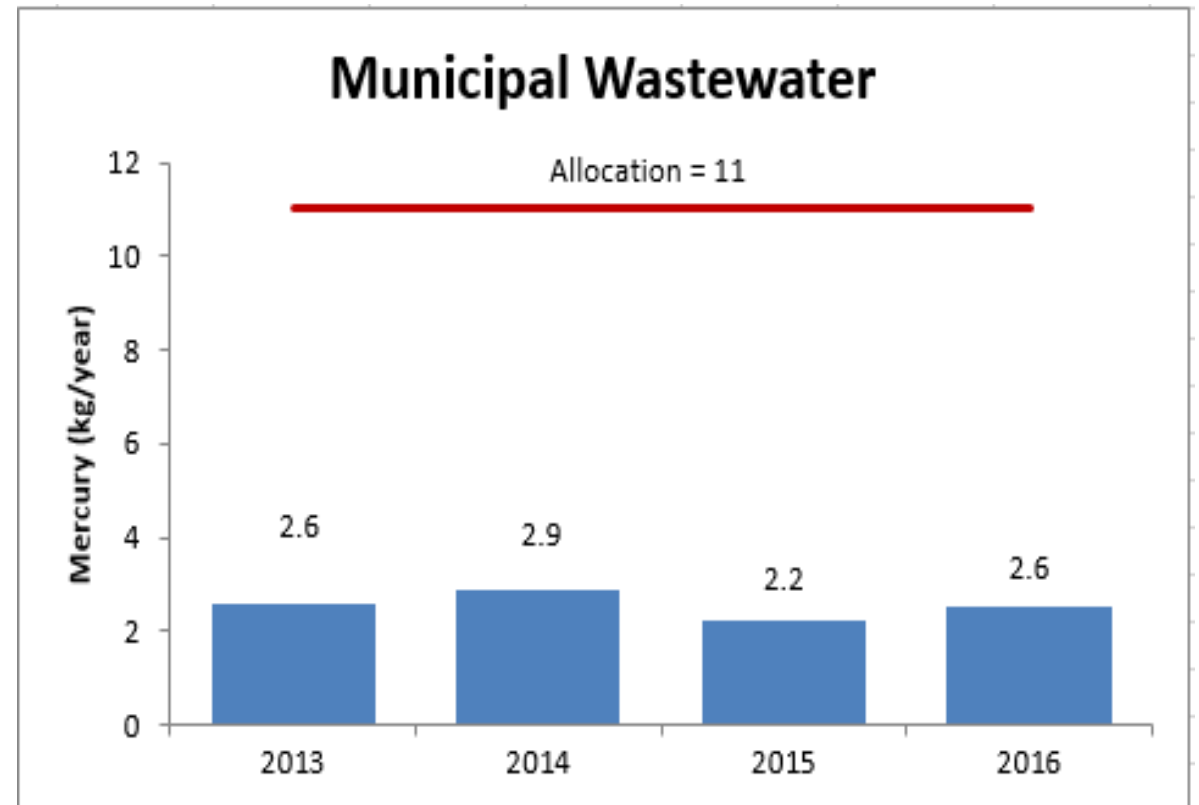
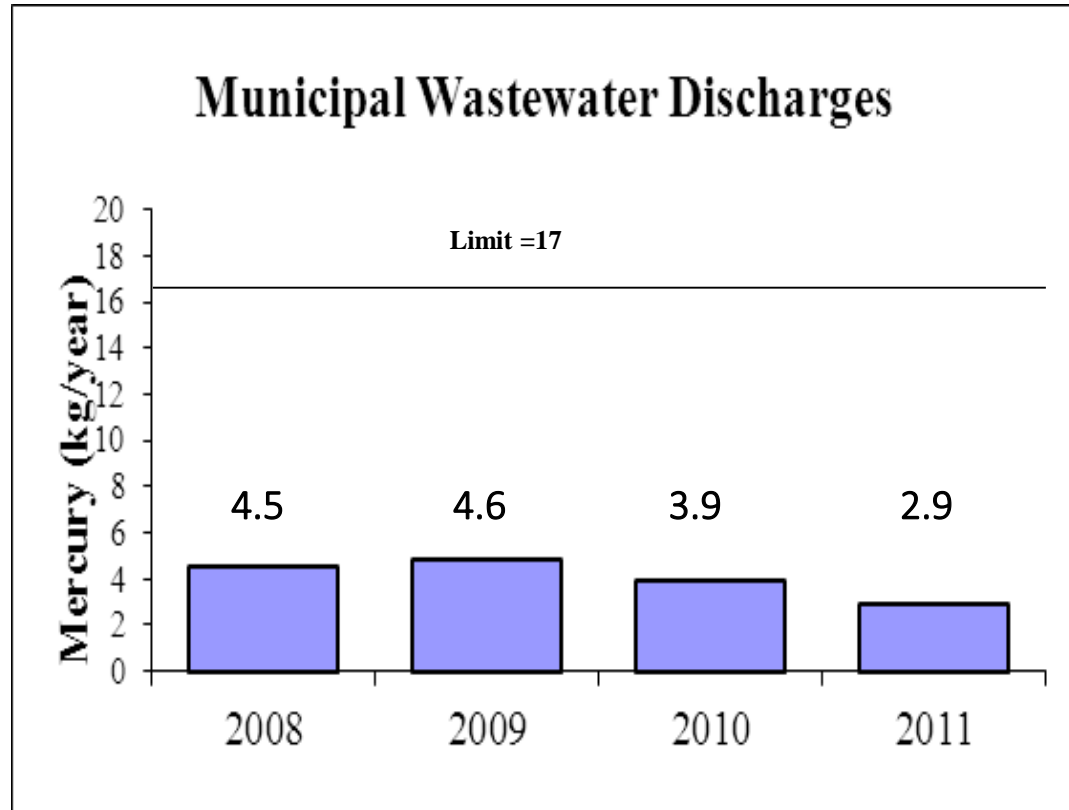
- Discuss BACWA's comment letter (cosigned by CASA and SCAP)
 - *Why use NPDES permit mechanism?*
 - *Concerns about 3rd party liability*
 - *Incorporation of SSS WDR into NPDES permit*
- What are the Water Board's plans for other blending agencies, such as SASM?
- CMSA's permit up for adoption on December 13

3. Mercury PCB Watershed Permit Reissuance

Compliance summary



Mercury loading history



Charts presented in 2012 and 2017 permit reissuances

Poor PCB congener data quality addressed in 2013 by new protocols, and implementation required by Regional Water Board

- Method 1668C for PCB congeners still unpromulgated
- PCB congener monitoring for informational purposes only (compliance is via Method 608, which has a high detection limit)

DECEMBER 9, 2013

BAY AREA CLEAN WATER AGENCIES

POTW PCBs Sampling, Analysis & Reporting Protocols Using EPA Method 1668C



2017 Administrative Draft

- Admin Draft was mostly the same as 2012 Watershed Permit
- BACWA made the following comments/recommendations:
 - Incorporation of BACWA PCB protocols into Permit ✓
 - Requested monitoring reductions (1/year for >1 mgd; 1/permit term for <1mgd) *sort of* ✓
 - Recommended dry season only monitoring X
 - Recommended edits to risk reduction language - *sort of* ✓

Proposed 1668C Monitoring Reductions

Discharger size	2012 Permit	2017 Tentative Order
≥ 50 MGD	1/Quarter	1/Quarter
$5.0 \text{ MGD} \leq Q < 50 \text{ MGD}$	1/Quarter	2/Year
$1.0 \text{ MGD} \leq Q < 5.0 \text{ MGD}$	2/Year	1/Year
<1 MGD	1/Year	1/Permit term
St. Helena, Crockett, Paradise Cove	1/Permit term	1/Permit term

*no alternative monitoring plan requirements traded for 1668C reductions

Minor recommendations in comments on Tentative Order

- Clarify language on duplicate analyses
- Specify that Method 608 is used for PCB compliance at additional locations in the Permit
- PCB units should be consistent
- The PCB Runoff Adjustment should be consistent with the Basin Plan
- List of compliance points should be updated
- Verbally to James – Method 608 updated by EPA

- **Revised Tentative Order not yet out**

Testimony to Water Board (Nov 8)

- BACWA supports the reissued Watershed Permit
- BACWA's member agencies are proud of their efforts to reduce mercury discharges
- We hope that monitoring reduction continue in the next permit reissuance once the Water Board has a more extensive data set
- BACWA will continue its risk reduction efforts, but its resources would be better spent in participating in a Statewide risk reduction program

4. Participation by POTWs in CECs studies

- State Water Board still interested in developing a Constituents of Emerging Concern (CECs) Statewide Pilot Study Monitoring Plan
 - January 2016 draft showed lack of understanding on existing efforts in State, including RMP
- Regional Water Board has stated that the RMP CEC programs independence, as well as keeping CEC monitoring out of permits depends on voluntary POTW participation in RMP projects.
 - BACWA helped RMP recruit volunteers for microplastics study
 - No RMP studies currently looking for volunteers



5. Ocean Litter Protection Strategy and microplastics

*California Ocean Litter Prevention Strategy:
Addressing Marine Debris from Source to Sea*

DRAFT

DRAFT

September 14, 2017

The strategy sets out objectives and identifies top priorities

- **Priority #1:** Prohibit single use products, such as straws, stirrers, expanded polystyrene, and balloons, if a feasible, less damaging alternative is available.
- **Priority #2:** Require the phase out of single use products in public institutions and facilities (i.e. government functions, campuses), such as convenience food and beverage packaging.
- **Priority #3:** Advance research on microplastics and technological solutions to reduce microplastics in wastewater discharge.

Wastewater Association Comments

- Strongly recommend that OPC develop an integrated strategy for advancing this research, working in cooperation with SFEI , the Water Environment and Reuse Foundation , and the Wastewater Associations.
- OPC should support the work outlined in these documents and allow it to be completed before continuing to the next phases such as control measures:
 - *SFEI - Microplastic Monitoring and Science Strategy for San Francisco Bay*
 - *WE&RF - Microplastics in Aquatic Systems: An Assessment of Risk*
- Associations Provided a summary of BACWA's research on analytical technique

Next steps

- Ocean Litter Protection Strategy meeting in La Jolla Nov 15/16
- Strategy to be presented to Ocean Protection Council in January 31, 2018

- Question for Board:

Would BACWA be open to participation in studies beyond funding the RMP and providing effluent? (e.g., interlaboratory comparison studies)

5. ELAP Update

- The State of California's Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) has undergone a review process to address shortcomings in its program
- Preliminary draft regulations in August 2017 incorporate the NELAC Institute (TNI) 2016 Standards
 - Laboratories are concerned that the additional documentation and other requirements will be extremely onerous
 - Small laboratories may close if they do not have the staff to comply with new standards
- BACWA members contributed to CWEA comments on Preliminary Draft Regulations in September 2017
- Draft Regulations in development but process has slowed down due to staffing issues

ELAP Next Steps

- Once the State Water Board formally adopts the new standards, BACWA will consider ways in which it can leverage economies of scale to centralize some of the workload associated with the new requirements
- BACWA work with the Regional Water Board on permit language allowing automation for some analyses, reducing the documentation burden