

BACWA Board Update July 19, 2019

Biosolids and Biogas Challenges and Opportunities

Greg Kester

gkester@casaweb.org

916-844-5262



California Biosolids Management 2018

- Generated: 675,000 Dry Metric Tons (DMT)
- Land Application: 480,000 = 71%
- Landfill: 113,000 = 17%:
 - 86,000 ADC 13%; 27,000 Burial 4%
- Incinerate: 24,000 = 4%
- Surface Disposal: 17,000 = 3%
- Deep Well Injection: 11,000 = 2%
- Storage, long-term treatment: 30,000 = 4.5%

CA State Mandates/Goals

- 50% Renewable Energy by 2026, 60% by 2030, 100% by 2045
- 75% Recycling of Solid Waste by 2020 (Goal)
- Achieve 40% below 1990 levels of CO2 emissions by 2030
- 7.5% reduction in Carbon Intensity of transportation fuel by 2020, 20% by 2030
- Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (40% methane reduction by 2030)
- Healthy Soils Initiative

State Mandates/Goals (cont'd)

- Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SB 1383)
 - 40% below 2013 methane emissions by 2030
 - 50% organics diversion below 2014 levels by 2020
 - 75% organics diversion below 2014 levels by 2025

- Healthy Soils Initiative
 - Biosolids help achieve every goal of Action Plan
 - Carbon Sequestration, improved soil tilth, reduced need for irrigation, increased crop yield
 - Reduce the use of fossil fuel-intense inorganic fertilizer

SB 1383 Regulatory Process

- Formal Rulemaking began January 2019 – have 1 year
- CalRecycle has generally been very responsive to CASA
- They agree that wastewater sector is critical to achieving legislative mandates
- Proposed to disallow restrictive local ordinances – ongoing discussions now
- Include procurement requirements for products of landfill diversion – compost and beneficial uses of biogas

SB 1383 Regulatory Process - Issues

- Restricting local ordinances under review
- Limits reduction in landfill disposal to biosolids anaerobically digested and/or composted
- Seems to consider all other uses of biosolids other than land application to be landfill disposal
- Procurement requirement is for compost but should extend to all biosolids suitable for land application
- Seek confirmation that jurisdictions and POTWs can negotiate whether biosolids can continue to be landfilled

SB 1383 Regulatory Process Update

- SWRCB General Order for land applied biosolids will become increasingly relied upon as law of the state
- Thus CASA has recommended several revisions to it, including:
 - It allows more restrictive local ordinances
 - Cumulative pollutant loading rates conflict with part 503
 - Animal grazing waiting time in conflict with part 503
 - Applies to EQ products

RIN and LCFS issues

- USEPA assigns highest value credit to sewage sludge AD
- Devalues the credit when introducing organic waste directly into digester for co-digestion (10-25% value)
- Met with EPA officials in June to gain re-interpretation
- OST, OLEM, NACWA, LACSD, EBMUD, DC Water joined
- Mostly educated Deputy AA for OAR but also secured assurance that EPA will confer internally among divisions

RIN and LCFS issues

- CARB revised LCFS regulations in 2018 but remain committed to have wastewater sector engaged
- Provided tutorial to CASA & members in March on new simplified calculator
- Have committed to developing guidance to integrate calculators for sewage sludge and food waste in order to realize benefit of diversion from landfills

EPA Office of Inspector General Report

- Released in November 2018 – Biased and sensational indictment of EPA biosolids program
- Implied land application is unsafe until full risk assessment is conducted on 352 constituents
- CASA working with Universities to rebut report conclusions
- Co-funded with NACWA, WEF, NEBRA, and NW Biosolids
- Hope to submit with co-signatories by September 2019

Poly- and PerFluoroAlkyl Substances (PFAS)

- Huge and growing issue across the nation for drinking water, wastewater, biosolids, and landfills
- EPA has a health advisory of 70 ppt in drinking water and has said they will develop MCLs by the end of year
- States are taking action on their own
- CASA working with national coalition of 'receiver' sectors to reframe discussion

Charting the Future of Biosolids – Phase 2

- WEF is hosting an expert meeting to identify challenges and opportunities for biosolids recycling
- Hosted one in 2011 and with renewed interest due to OIG report, PFAS, etc. concluded it was time to revisit
- Will be by invitation, roughly 50 participants and in DC area in November
- Will inform research summit to be held in early 2020 by WRF

Questions?

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CASA Director of Renewable Resource Programs

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