

Welcoming the Bay Area Biosolids Coalition into BACWA

May 2, 2025

Rebecca Overacre, P.E.

Associate Civil Engineer

East Bay Municipal Utility District



**BAY AREA
BIOSOLIDS
COALITION**

THE COALITION BIOSOLIDS NEWS + EVENTS COM



BACWA Biosolids Committee

- For many years the BACWA Biosolids Committee and Bay Area Biosolids Coalition existed concurrently
- In ~2020 the BACWA Biosolids Committee went on hiatus
- In recent years, BABBC's focus broadened beyond regional planning, and membership interest broadened in turn
- In March 2025 the Coalition became a Committee!



Potential Transition of the BABBC to a BACWA Committee

Background:
The Bay Area Biosolids Coalition (BABBC) originally formed with the purpose of developing a regional biosolids processing facility. However, in recent years, the focus has shifted to regulatory updates, research funding, and outreach/education. Bay Area Ocean Water Agencies (BACWA) is considering establishing its Biosolids Committee to allow agencies who are not currently members of the BABBC to also participate in regular biosolids discussions. However, most of the functions of the Biosolids Committee would overlap with the work done by the BABBC. To avoid duplicating efforts, BACWA and the BABBC are considering transitioning the BABBC to a committee under BACWA.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
What are the benefits of transitioning the BABBC to a committee under BACWA?
The benefits include:
1. Expanding the membership (all members of BACWA would be invited to participate in the meetings).
2. Consolidating efforts between the BABBC and a BACWA Biosolids Committee to avoid redundant work and meetings.
3. Improved coordination in public education and messaging.

How would the decision to transition the BABBC to a committee under BACWA be made?
The decision to transition the BABBC to a committee under BACWA would be made by the BACWA Board of Directors.

How would dues be impacted for the BABBC's POTW member agencies?
Dues for all BACWA members would increase to accommodate the budget needs of the BABBC. However, the additional costs would be spread across more member agencies. Current BABBC members who are also BACWA members would end up paying a lower overall amount in dues, when accounting for the slight increase in BACWA dues and the elimination of the BABBC dues.

How would dues be impacted for the BABBC's private companies (vendors, consultants)?
BACWA does not charge dues to private companies. However, the BABBC, as a committee under BACWA, would have the option to ask for sponsorship from private companies, if needed.

Who can attend the BACWA Biosolids Committee meetings?
Who attends the meetings would be completely up to the BACWA members. All BACWA members would be invited to participate. Private companies, researchers, regulators, etc. could still attend if desired.

What would be the future role of the BACWA Board?
The BACWA Board would approve the BACWA year budget and contracts including a capital plan, such as for research opportunities and staff, private companies.

Is the BACWA Board interested in this transition?
Yes, they are interested and want to support this transition, pending a decision by the BABBC.

Would Carolee still serve as Program Manager?
BACWA requires a competitive bid process for private contracts (could be up to every five years). Carolee would need to submit a proposal and compete with other potential consultants to continue acting as Program Manager. To facilitate this, "Material Action" is defined as any action that creates or increases a payment, obligation, debt, or liability of any member.

Overall, dues are expected to decrease slightly for any member agencies that are current members of both BACWA and BABBC. However, the BABBC members are not members of BACWA and thus their dues may increase, resulting in "Material Action". BACWA's budget and dues structure for the Biosolids Committee, which has yet to be developed, will determine whether or not this change results in "Material Action" or not, which will determine whether a unanimous or majority vote is required of BABBC members.

Why did the BACWA Biosolids Committee discontinue in the past?
The BACWA Biosolids Committee was discontinued soon after the formation of the BABBC because participation by member agencies dwindled due to a shift to participating in BABBC meetings instead.

Could the BABBC be able to continue their functions if the BABBC transitioned to a BACWA Committee?
Yes, the BABBC's functions of information sharing, regulatory updates, research funding, maintaining the website and other outreach/education efforts would continue under a BACWA Committee.

Would the BABBC be able to retain their branding and website?
Yes. The BABBC would be able to retain their name, logo, and website after the transition.

How would the BABBC's current research funds be managed?
There are several ways existing BABBC research funds could be managed whereby the BABBC would



How would the transition be managed?
The transition, BACWA could use a side-source exemption during the first year (Fiscal Year 2025/2026).

How quickly could this transition happen?
The proposed schedule is as follows:
• At the October 24 BABBC meeting, discuss the potential transition and gauge member interest.
• If there is widespread interest, further develop the details including development of a proposed budget and dues structure.
• At the December 9 BABBC meeting, discuss the 2025/2026 fiscal year proposed budget and dues structure and begin official voting on whether or not to transition the BABBC to a committee under BACWA.
• If BACWA members vote in favor of becoming a BACWA committee, then additional administrative work such as developing a new budget for the BACWA Biosolids Committee and fiscal year update for the Program Manager would continue between December 2024 to January 2025.
• At the discretion of the BACWA members, BACWA members who are not BABBC members may begin attending meetings in early 2025, before the transition officially occurs.
• The new budget and dues structure under BACWA would officially happen at the start of the 2025/2026 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2025).



© 2025 Bay Area Biosolids Coalition



OUR COALITION

We are a group of utilities and industry partners across the San Francisco Bay Area working together to find reliable, sustainable, cost-effective solutions for biosolids management.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Solano County, CA



Coalition formed to address threats to land application and state actions on climate change

2004 Bay Area Agencies form Coalition to discuss feasibility of a Regional Facility

2008 Coalition brands itself as Bay Area Biosolids to Energy (BAB2E) Coalition

2016 rebranded as Bay Area Biosolids Coalition

2025 75% Organics Diversion from Landfills



2016 SB 32 signed mandating statewide GHG levels reduce 40% below 1990 levels by 2030
2016 SB 1383 signed mandating methane reduction and organics diversion by 2025, defining ADC as disposal



2014 AB 1594 signed to remove credit from the use of green waste in ADC



2006 AB 32 Global Warming Solutions Act is signed mandating 1990 GHG levels by 2020 statewide and targeting 80% below 1990 GHG levels by 2050

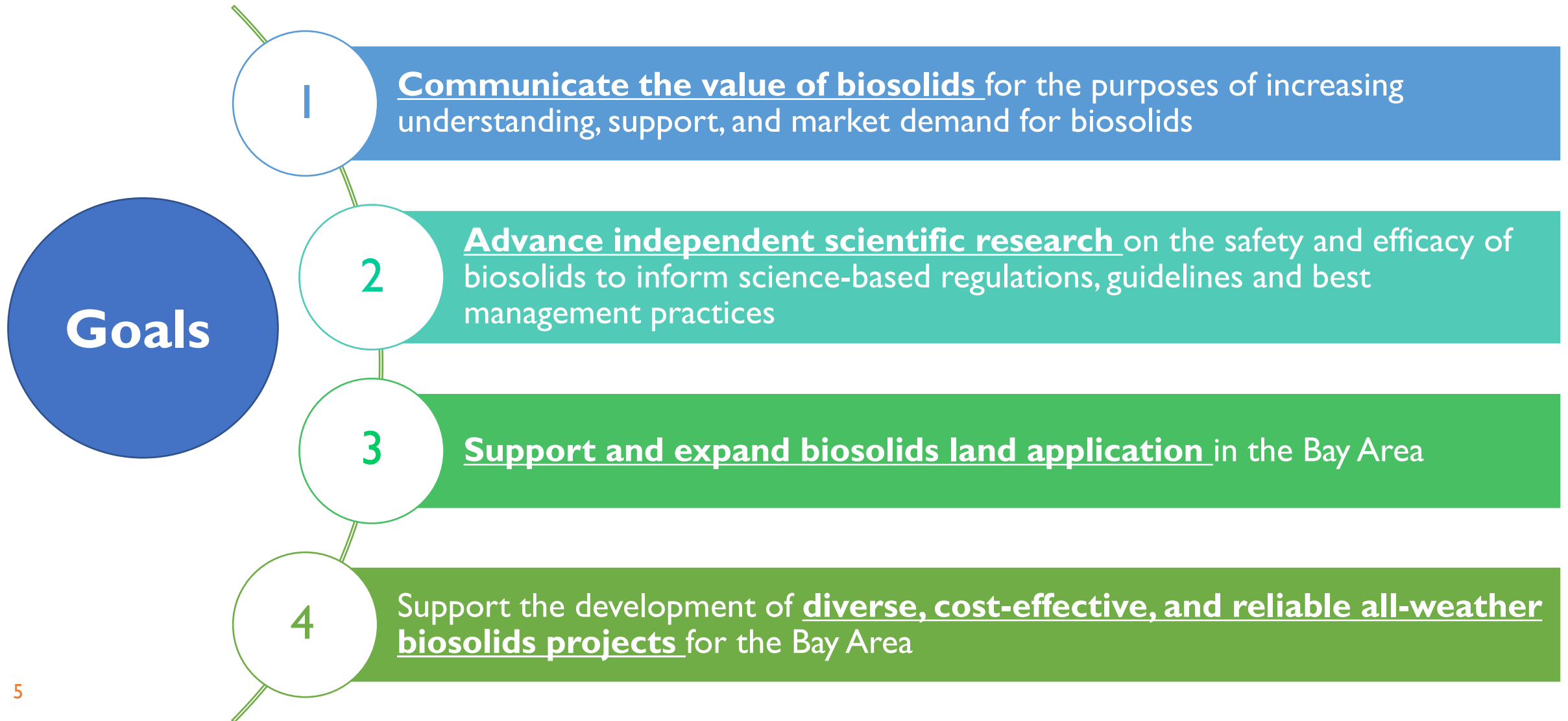


2018 EO B-55-18 Carbon Neutrality by 2045 (recognizes importance of land management)

2018 SB 100 signed mandating 100% Clean Energy by 2045

2018 SB 1440 signed mandating consideration of biomethane procurement

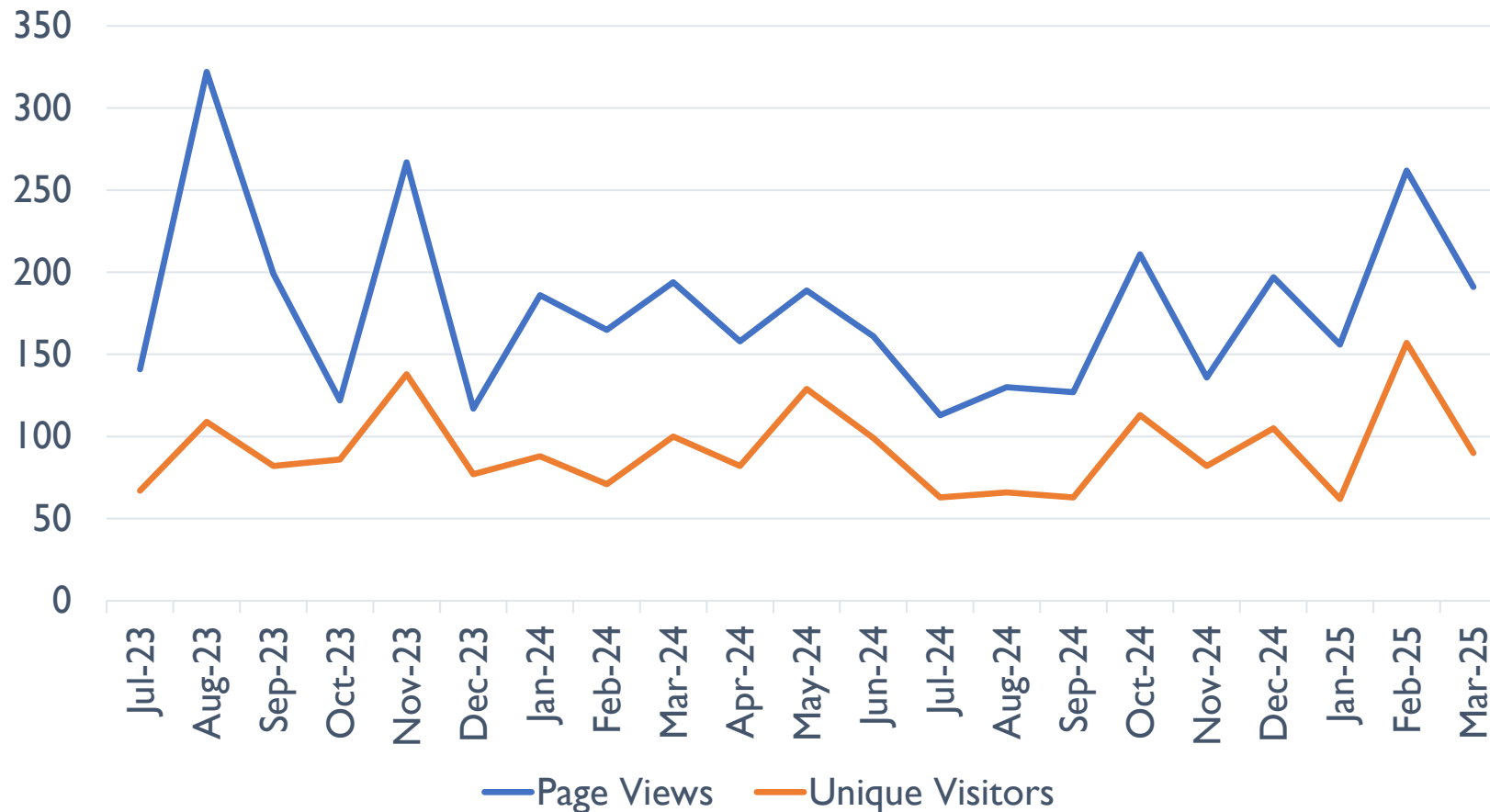
BAB Coalition's Current Goals



1. Communicate the Value of Biosolids

Bayareabiosolids.org

Analytics:



2. Advance Scientific Research

- **Previous research funding/collaborations:**
 - 2017-2018: UC-Merced Research of Carbon Sequestration from Biosolids Land App – **\$50,000**
 - 2020-2023: UC-Davis Research Evaluating Potential Plant Uptake of PFAS – **\$64,500**
 - 2022-2023: VT C-Sequestration Meta-Analysis – Indirect (member participation in review)
 - National Collaborative PFAS Study, Phase I Potential for PFAS Migration to GW – **\$25,000**
 - EPA Evaluation of Pollutants in Biosolids – Member participation
 - Biosolids Emissions Assessment Model (BEAM) – **\$5,000**
 - EPA STAR Research Potential for PFAS Uptake and Bioaccumulation – PM and member participation in Technical and Community Engagement Advisory Committees

Total Discretionary Funds to Research to Date: \$144,500

Available funds:

- ~\$137,000 of discretionary funds.
- ~\$30,000 accruing in FY25 (2024-2025).
- ~\$167,000 total.

3. Support Expansion of Biosolids Land Application

- Regulations – PFAS (US EPA):
 - Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act
 - Goal is to protect water and wastewater treatment plants from liability under CERCLA
 - H.R. 1267 introduced on 2/12/2025
 - Other regulations that could indirectly impacts POTWs:
 - **Clean Water Act Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for PFAS Manufacturers Under the Organic Chemicals, Plastics and Synthetic Fibers Point Source Category**
 - **Human Health Water Quality Criteria**
- Messaging shared condition of residential PFAS loads (not industrially impacted)

Local Action When Needed

- In 2020 regulatory and scientific interest in wetlands restoration and biosolids land application in the North Bay
- Joint effort with strong involvement from Bay Area Biosolids Coalition
- Collaborative workshops
- Data review
 - Biosolids metals levels meet wetlands criteria with a few exceptions
 - More data needed
- End result: white paper (2022) and increased collaboration

Biosolids in the Baylands

Exploring compatibility of biosolids use with wetland restoration in the San Francisco Baylands



Knowledge Sharing

'Mystery company' buys \$800M worth of land near Travis AFB, raising concerns about national security

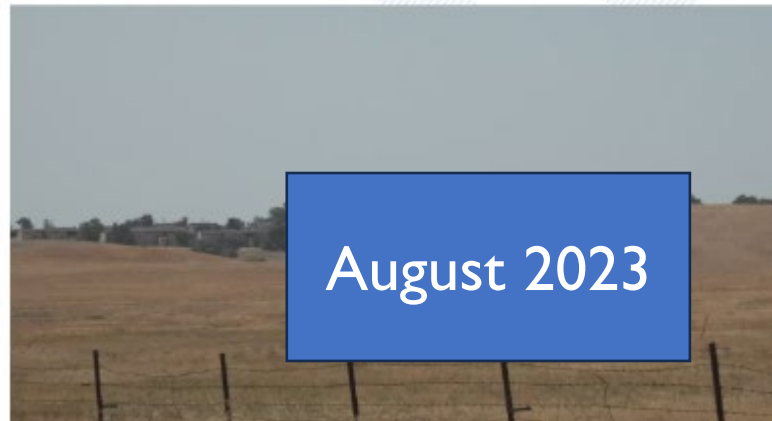
By [Stephanie Sierra](#)
Friday, July 21, 2023



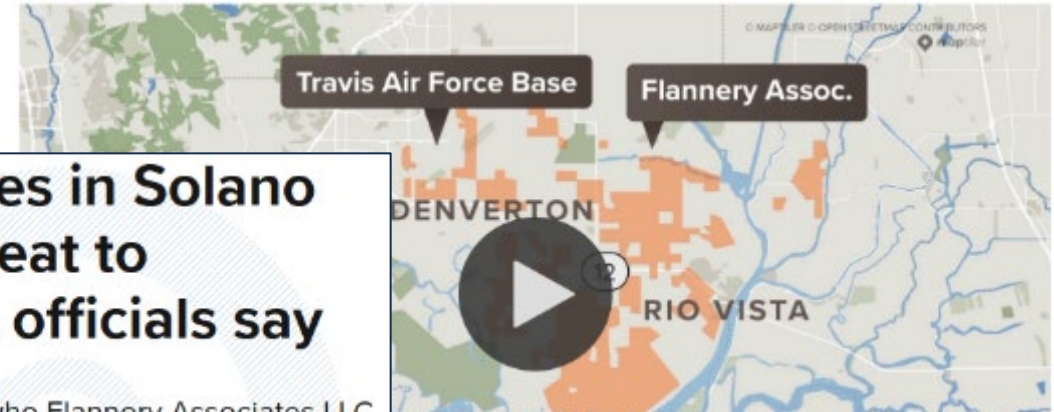
"We're very, very concerned about this." A Solano County company that has bought \$800 million of land near Travis AF

Mystery land purchases in Solano County could be a threat to government, security, officials say

Government officials say they don't know who Flannery Associates LLC are and what they want or are planning to do



Silicon Valley elite identified as mystery company buying land in Solano County, representative says



Knowledge Sharing, cont.

- Agency-to-Agency discussion of biosolids handling contracts, capital projects
 - Timing
 - Capacity
 - Pricing
- Ongoing technology review
 - Recent presentation from Bluum Bio
 - Coming soon – presentation on foam fractionation!
- Join us! Next meeting virtual, info will come via BACWA

