
Bay Area Biosolids Coalition: Meeting

August 18th, 2025

A. Welcome/Introductions

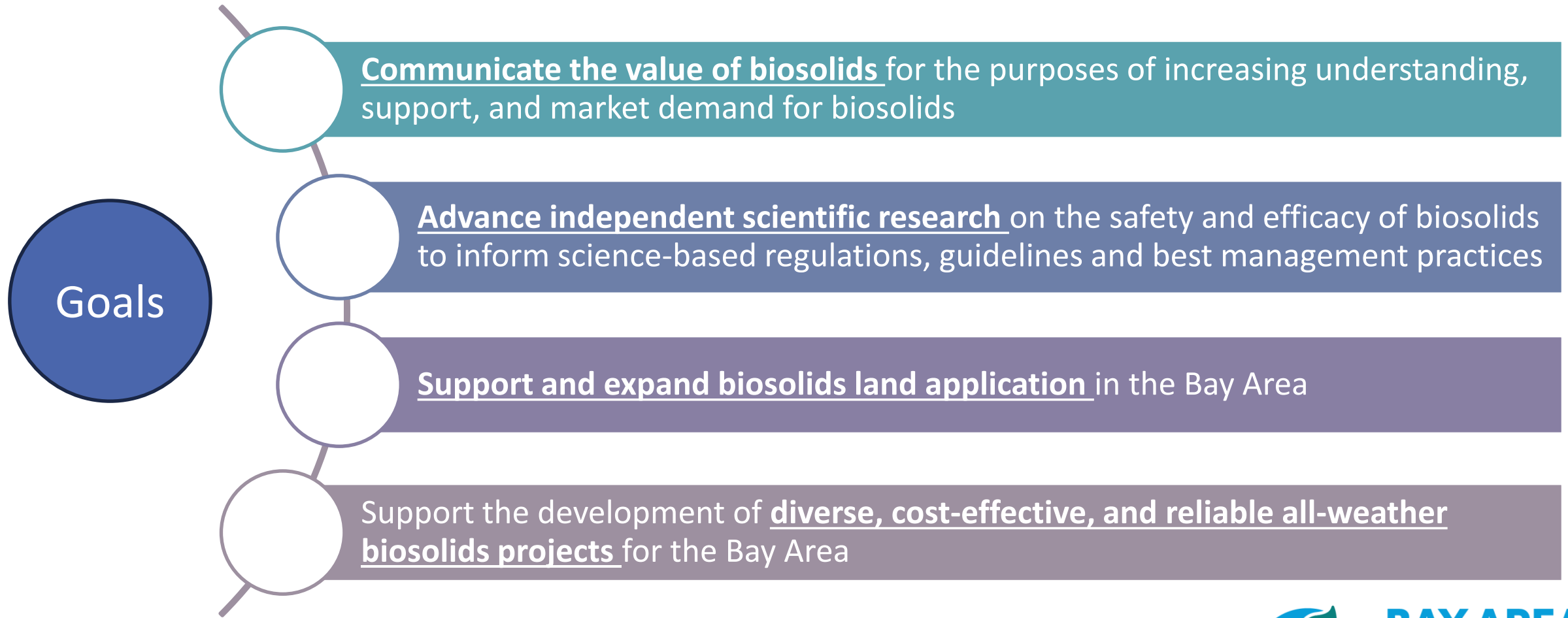
1. Transition of BABC to BACWA Committee

- Background:
 - BABC's purpose shifted from planning for a regional facility to supporting research and communications.
- Benefits:
 - Expand the membership
 - Avoid duplicating efforts between BABC and BACWA Biosolids Committee
 - Lower overall dues for member agencies
- Official transition occurred July 1, 2025!

B. Status of June Action Items

- Ongoing – maintain website (Website Subgroup)
- Ongoing – coordinate with potential research partners (Research Subgroup)
- Ongoing – provide updates on regulations and other drivers impacting biosolids beneficial use (Program Management Team, CASA, etc.)
- Ongoing – coordinate on transition to BACWA Biosolids Committee (Program Management Team, Executive Committee, and BACWA)
- ☐ Finalize voting on contribution to Phase 2 National Collaborative PFAS Project (Member Agencies)
- ☐ Provide SharePoint access to new members (Program Management Team)
- ☐ Provide summary of BABC funded/supported research to date (Research Subgroup)
- ☐ Let us know if interested in becoming a co-chair or joining the website or research subgroup (Member Agencies)
- ☐ Let us know if interested in being featured in an agency highlight on the website (Member Agencies)
- ☐ Submit comment letter to EPA's Draft Risk Assessment (Member Agencies)

C. Strategic Plan Goals – Progress Updates



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1. Communicate the Value of Biosolids

News & Events Posts:

- Posted!
 - **August: PFAS National Collaborative Research**
- Upcoming posts:
 - Land application site photos
 - Research on biosolids benefits
 - Agency highlights:
 - West County Wastewater
 - SFPUC
 - **Let us know if interested!**



8/12/25

National PFAS Study Concludes PFAS in Municipal Biosolids Unlikely to Migrate to Groundwater

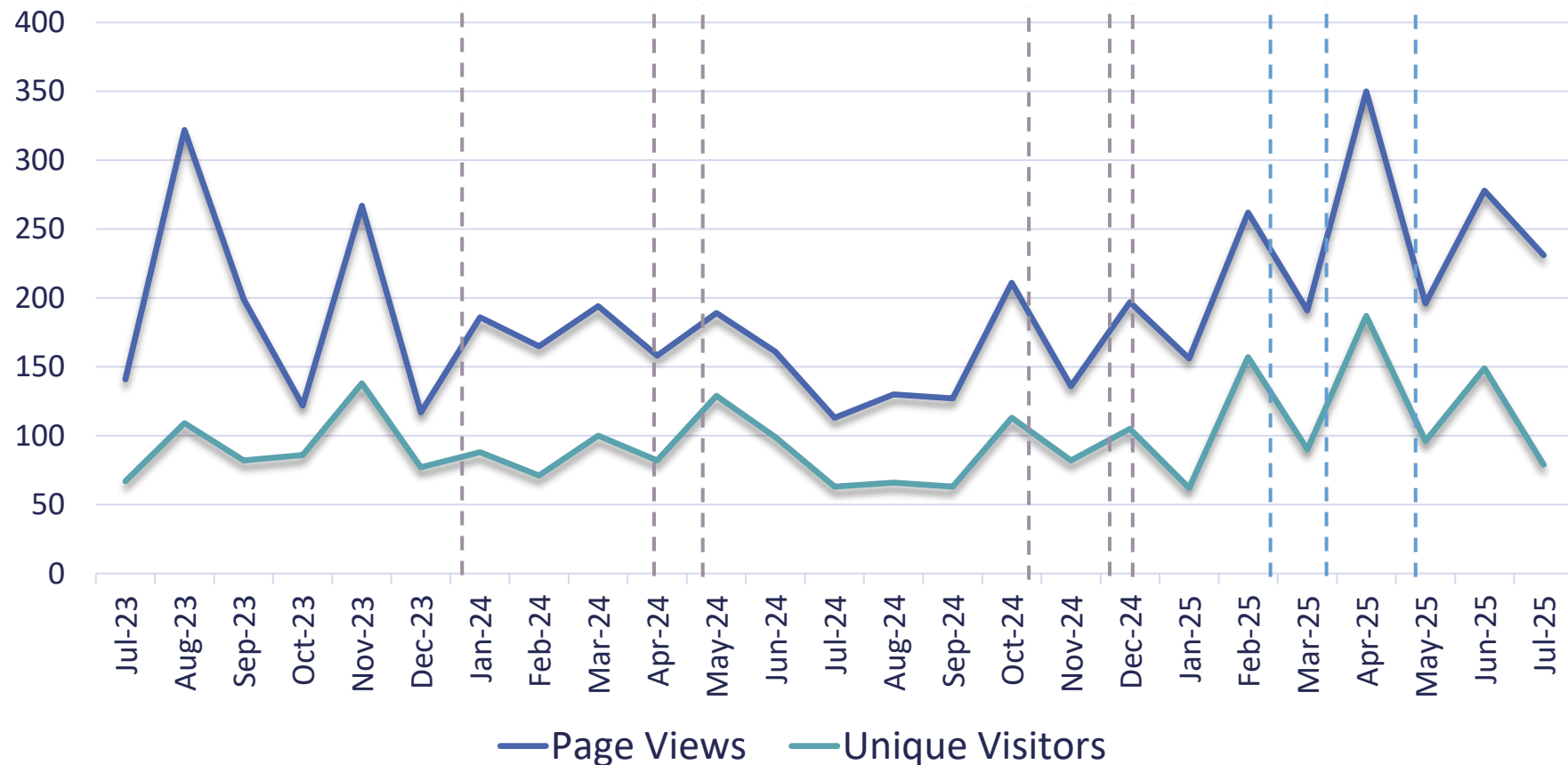
In January 2025, Dr. Ian Pepper and his research team from Arizona State University released the Phase I results of the National Collaborative PFAS Project. This project evaluated migration of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) from biosolids land application to groundwater in 23 sites across 17 states. This post summarizes the Phase I project methodology, key results, and next steps for Phase II.



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1. Communicate the Value of Biosolids

Website Analytics:



Posts:

2024:

- **Jan 9:** Biosolids Product Profile – Dried
- **April 12:** BEAM
- **May 13:** Biosolids Product Profile – Class A
- **Oct 23:** Restoring fire impacted lands
- **Dec 9:** PFAS Resources
- **Dec 18:** BACWA Biosolids Survey

2025:

- **Feb 28:** Mine reclamation
- **Mar 31:** Agency Highlight: Vallejo FWD
- **May 5:** PFAS uptake to oats
- **Aug 12:** National PFAS migration to groundwater



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1. Communicate the Value of Biosolids

Collaboration with BACWA

- BACWA wants to collaborate with BABC to post content about resource recovery
- BACWA manages <https://baywise.org/>, a public-facing educational website
- Violetta Muselli, Communications Consultant
- Options:
 - Post on Baywise website
 - Cross-post on both Baywise and BABC's website
 - Post on social media (develop vignettes that can be easily shared from multiple accounts)
 - Collaborate with reporters (give them info, invite them on tours, etc.)

Toilets Aren't Trash Cans!

Did you know that so-called "flushable" wipes aren't flushable at all? Learn what can and can't be flushed.



What happens after I flush my Toilet?

When you flush a toilet, wash your dishes, or take a shower, that water (called wastewater) flows through sewers to a wastewater treatment facility where it is cleaned before being discharged into the Bay.

Snippet from Baywise.org



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2. Advance Scientific Research

History

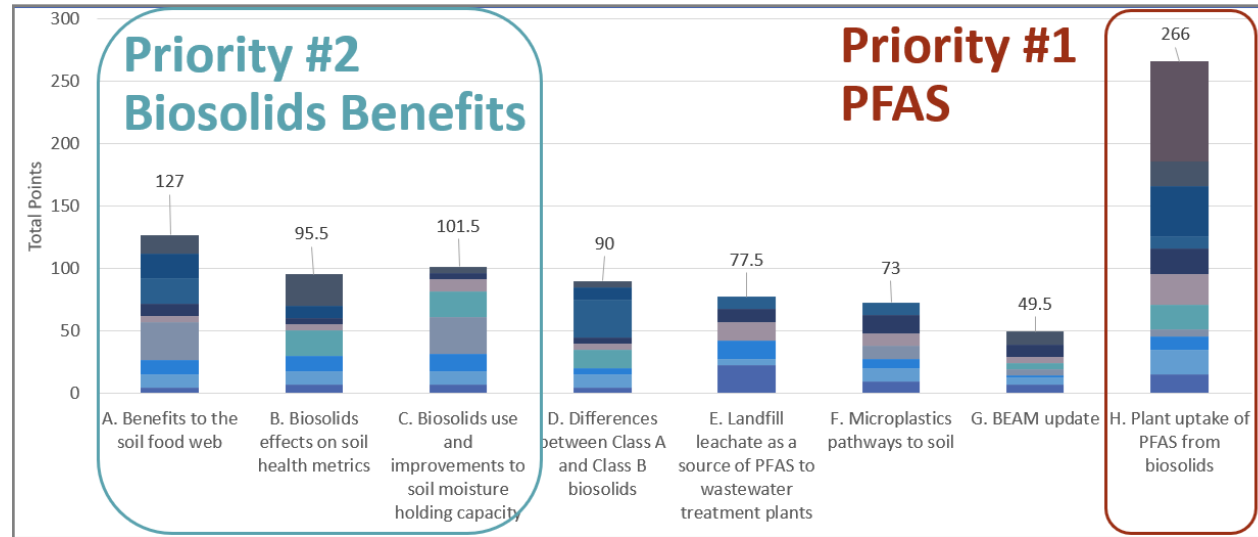
- **Previous research funding/collaborations:**
 - 2017-2018: UC-Merced Research of Carbon Sequestration from Biosolids Land App – **\$50,000**
 - 2020-2023: UC-Davis Research Evaluating Potential Plant Uptake of PFAS – **\$64,500**
 - 2022-2023: VT C-Sequestration Meta-Analysis – Indirect (member participation 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

2. Advance Scientific Research

Research Priorities and Approach

Decided not to retest samples and to hold off research on other crops to avoid duplicating efforts with Dr. Pepper's Phase 2 research.



On hold until we hear back from potential research partners.

■ Priority #1: PFAS plant uptake:

- Provide funding to Dr. Pepper's Phase 2 national research.
- Explore potential research partnership with Prof. Tom Young, UC Davis.

■ Priority #2: Biosolids benefits:

- Explore potential research partnership with Prof. Becca Ryals, UC Merced and Prof. Cynthia Daly, Chico State.

2. Advance Scientific Research

National PFAS Study Phase 2

Updates in blue bold.
Key points highlighted.

- Scope & funding needs:
 - Phase 1 = groundwater migration (complete)
 - Phase 2 = plant uptake of PFAS (started in Spring 2025). 16 sites in 12 states (2 new). Ideally 10 crops, including alfalfa
- **BABC provided funding!**
 - **BABC decided to contribute \$50,000 via majority vote!**
 - **Santa Rosa contributed an additional \$10,000!**
 - **Thank you to BACWA, who handled the logistics of the pledge form and transferring the funds, and offered to help other agencies as well.**

FUNDING REQUIRED

A minimum of \$1M is required for the 2 -year project.

SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTIONS

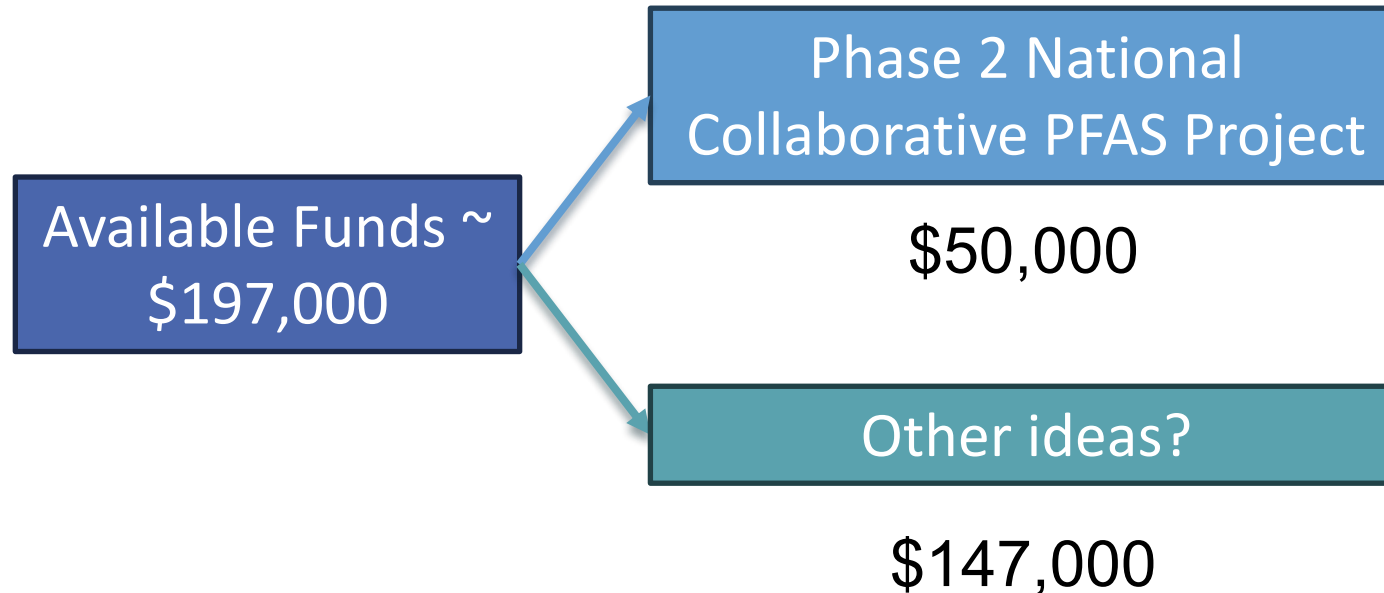
Design flow greater than 50 MGD	\$25,000
Design flow between 25 and 50 MGD	\$20,000
Design flow between 5 and 25 MGD	\$15,000
Design flow between 1 and 5 MGD	\$5,000
All others	\$1,000
Non-profit associations	\$3,000
Consulting firms	\$5,000
Biosolids private sector management firms	\$10,000

2. Advance Scientific Research

Overall Research Plan



Advance independent scientific research on the safety and efficacy of biosolids to inform science-based regulations, guidelines and best management practices



2. Advance Scientific Research

Other ideas?

- BluumBio pilot
- Foam fractionation
- EBMUD soil remediation using biosolids
- Support projects that lost EPA funding
 - Evaluation of Pollutants in Biosolids Grants (\$6M to 4 awardees): <https://www.epa.gov/research-grants/national-priorities-evaluation-pollutants-biosolids-grants>
 - Understanding PFAS Uptake and Bioaccumulation in Plants and Animals (\$15M to 10 awardees): <https://www.epa.gov/research-grants/research-grants-understanding-pfas-uptake-and-bioaccumulation-plants-and-animals>
- Additional PFAS sampling
- Other?



3. Support and Expand Biosolids Land Application



Support and expand biosolids land application in the Bay Area

- Track regulations, funding programs, research, and media that could impact biosolids land application in the Bay Area
 - Regulations on PFAS and other emerging contaminants that could limit land application
 - SB 1383 and county ordinances that may limit or expand local land application
 - Vehicle electrification regulations that could impact biosolids hauling
 - Regulations and funding programs that could impact anaerobic digestion and biogas use (methane emissions, LCFS, IRA)
 - Zero waste, soil health, and climate programs that could incentivize use of biosolids
 - Local media on biosolids safety and benefits
 - Research on biosolids safety (PFAS, etc.) and and biosolids benefits

3. Support and Expand Biosolids Land Application

Updates in blue bold.
Key points highlighted.

- PFAS (US EPA):
 - 2025 PFAS Action Plan
 - **Announced on April 28, 2025**
 - Draft Risk Assessment
 - **Comment period ended August 14th**
 - Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act (H.R. 1267)
 - **Introduced to House on 2/12/2025. Continues to move through the approval steps.**
 - POTW Influent PFAS Study
 - **On hold and unclear whether it will be implemented**

3. Support and Expand Biosolids Land Application

Updates in blue bold.
Key points highlighted.

- PFAS (California):
 - No limits restricting biosolids use this year
 - Since other states have set limits at 20 ppb, CA agencies with concentrations > 20 ppb encouraged to retest using method 1633
 - PFAS product bans
 - SB 682 passed the Senate. Now on to the Assembly. There will be a request for support from POTWs.
 - Amended to ban intentionally added PFAS in several consumer products, including cleaning products, cookware, juvenile products, food packaging, ski wax, and dental floss by 2028
 - SB 454 PFAS Mitigation Program
 - Would establish statewide PFAS mitigation fund to help agencies pay for cleanup in drinking water and wastewater. **Currently on hold due to cost.**

3. Support and Expand Biosolids Land Application

Updates in blue bold.
Key points highlighted.

- CalRecycle SB 1383
 - SB 1383: Working on overturning overly restrictive county ordinances
 - Digestion study to inform policy recommendations/changes.
- Advanced Clean Fleets
 - 45-day language was published on July 29th. Comments due Sept 15th. CASA is developing a comment letter and template for agencies. **Agencies are encouraged to submit comments!**
 - 15-day language will be released after Sept 25th. May allow flexibility for NZEVs (near zero emission vehicles), like RNG!
- CA State Water Board's Climate Change Resolution Focus Group
 - Draft resolution coming up within a month. **Reach out to Sarah if interested in joining the subgroup.**
- IRA Funding
 - Solar and wind funding terminated. Support for hydrogen and biogas continues.
 - Grantees need to reapply without mention of climate change.

4. Support Development of Biosolids Projects

Central San's Solids Regionalization Evaluation

F. Other Updates

- Events/conferences:
 - CASA 70th Annual Conference on July 30 to August 1 in San Diego, CA
 - BACWA Board Meeting on August 15 at EBMUD Orinda
- Other updates?



G. Action Items

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G. Upcoming Meetings

- Upcoming BABC meetings:
 - October 13th at 10 am to 12 pm (virtual)
 - December 8th at 10 am to 12 pm (in person; location TBD)
 - Suggest moving due to conflict with ABBA Focus Group meeting – would December 1st work?
- Other events/conferences:
 - BACWA Air Committee meeting, Wednesday, Aug 20th – will discuss methane emissions (non-flammable)
 - For full list of BACWA meetings, see: <https://bacwa.org/events/month/2025-08/>
 - WEFTEC in Chicago, September 27 to October 1
 - CASA Innovative Technology Seminar, NorCal and SoCal locations on October 29 and 28, respectively
 - Other?

H. Adjourn for all... Thank You!



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