

April 29, 2009

California Energy Commission Dockets Office, MS-4 Re: Docket No. # 09-IEP-1G 1516 Ninth Street Sacramento, CA 95814-5512 **DOCKET**

09-IEP-1G

DATE APR 29 2009

RECD. APR 30 2009

SUBJECT:

2009 INTEGRATED ENERGY POLICY REPORT – BIOPOWER IN

CALIFORNIA DOCKET #09 09-IEP-1G

To the California Energy Commission:

In response to the April 22, 2009 Joint IEPR and Renewables Committee Workshop, which explored issues associated with biomass feedstock availability and development, this letter addresses the potential to tap a previously underutilized renewable energy resource, the biosolids by-product of wastewater treatment plants, and combine it with other biomass material otherwise destined for landfills. We ask that the Commission consider encouraging the development of such projects through the various grant programs administered by the CEC.

Delta Diablo Sanitation District is the lead agency for the Bay Area Biosolids to Energy (BA B2E) Coalition, a consortium of 16 Bay Area agencies representing over 2 million people. Collectively, the wastewater treatment facilities that we operate produce approximately 90 dry tons of biosolids per day. Most of the biosolids produced by Bay Area agencies are hauled close to one million miles annually to be disposed of either in landfills as alternative daily cover or for application on agricultural land not used for food crops, to enrich the soil.

The BA B2E Coalition is developing a regional biosolids to energy (B2E) facility located within the Bay Area. In addition to biosolids, the facility will also accept other green waste, otherwise destined for landfill, to boost the energy output of the B2E facility. In 2008, the Coalition commissioned a technical analysis of air quality permitting requirements that established the feasibility of such a project. The resulting facility will be a clean, reliable renewable energy facility that would meet or exceed all environmental regulations and reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions. This facility could convert over 500 wet tons per day of biosolids and biomass to approximately 5 MW of power. In addition to reducing truck miles travelled from the present estimated 800,000 annual VMT, the facility would process local renewable supplies to produce energy close to the load. The Coalition is prepared to initiate a CEQA process within the next six months and is also exploring state, federal and private partnerships to help bring the project to fruition.

In addition to helping California meet the Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) goals, this project can also reduce GHG emissions associated with present hauling practices and help meet

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The BA B2E coalition seeks your support in the development of this project, which will serve as a template for others seeking to develop similar projects. The potential is great for such projects to provide multiple benefits and address several challenges faced by California.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss our project and the potential for state partnership. For additional information, I can be reached at (925) 756-1928 or at carolineq@ddsd.org.

Sincerely,

Caroline Quinn
Engineering Services Director
Delta Diablo Sanitation District

CQ/JS:bjm

cc: P.10089

Chron File