

∴ **CWEA Biosolids Workshop**

Whittier – January 26, 2010

Biosolids Program Update

Greg Kester

CASA Biosolids Program Manager



CA Assn of Sanitation Agencies

- Represent more than 90% of sewerred pop of CA
- Executive Director – Catherine Smith
- Director Legal & Regulatory Affairs – Bobbi Larson
- State Lobbyist – Mike Dillon
- Federal Lobbyist – Eric Sapirstein
- Biosolids Manager – Greg Kester
- Climate Change Manager – Jackie Kepke

2008 CA Biosolids Use

- **750,000 dmt used or disposed**
- **178,000 dmt (24%) Class B Land Application**
 - 102,000 dmt in California
 - 75,000 dmt in Arizona
 - 1,000 dmt in Nevada
- **341,000 dmt (45%) Class A Land Application or Distribution**

2008 CA Biosolids Use

- **105,000 dmt (14%) as ADC or Final Cover at Landfills**
- **74,000 dmt (10%) Landfill Disposal**
- **21,000 dmt (3%) Incinerated**
- **11,000 dmt (1.5%) Other**

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National Issues

- AP story on Baltimore compost research
- First Lady's White House garden
- San Francisco receives petition to end compost giveaway program
- EPA Actions

Lead Remediation Research

- **Urban soils have dangerously high lead concentrations**
- **No program in place for remediation**
- **Johns Hopkins, KKI, USDA, Others under HUD grant**
- **Use biosolids compost in poor Baltimore neighborhood**

AP Article Attacks Pb Study's

- **Claim research targeted poor African-Americans**
- **Implies toxic “sludge” was thrust upon the innocent**
- **Implies research is similar to Tuskegee experiment**
- **Must understand that children were highly exposed to dangerous Pb levels**

AP Story Follow-up

- **Compost applied actually reduced bioavailability of Pb and reduced crop uptake**
- **Johns Hopkins and KKI vigorously defend research**
- **Lead author removed from further articles**
- **CORRECTION ARTICLE RELEASED ON JUNE 13th !!**

First Lady's Community Garden

- **Mother Jones & on line blogs criticized project**
- **Cited “hazardous” lead level in soil – from biosolids**
- **Numerous refutations have appeared – 93 ppm Pb lower than expected for urban soils and “safe” for gardens**
- **Garden still huge success story**

San Francisco PUC Compost

- **Twice a year compost giveaway program**
- **Petitioned in September to cease it by CFS/RILES – SF did not do so**
- **Invited petitioners to Citizens Advisory Committee meeting in November**
- **CASA and SF PUC responded to petition – NACWA & WEF?**

EPA National SS Survey

- 84 samples at 74 facilities collected 8/06-3/07
- Metals, Anions, Organics, Nutrients, PBDE's
- Statistical analysis underway – report by spring
- PPCP's will be analyzed and reported by fall
- Next steps – Exposure – Hazard – Risk Assessment

EPA Definition of Solid Waste

- **Sierra Club Victorious in 2007 Suit against EPA Incineration Rules**
- **EPA Published ANPRM January 2, 2009 to Redefine SW**
- **Sought comment on materials as “discarded” or if they are “alternative fuels”**
- **Received extension; draft by 4/10 final by 12/10**

Arsenic Cancer Slope Factor

- **Proposed change for IRIS CSF for inorganic arsenic**
- **20 fold increase from 1.5 mg/kg to 30.5 mg/kg**
- **Potentially significant impacts for effluent, recycled water, and biosolids**
- **Recent communication states inadvertent release for public comment and still in internal review**

WERF Project Update

- **Trace Organics in Land Applied Biosolids**
 - Draft State of the Science Report under review
 - Will develop robust research plan
 - Funding options under consideration
- **Pathogen Risk Assessment**
 - Appear to be focusing on non-compliant scenarios
- **Rapid Incident Response**
 - Protocol being tested in Ohio
 - Few cases reported and most deal with manure



Anaerobic Digesters as Composters?

- **No similarity to an AEROBIC compost process**
- **If exclusion applies then what drives permit requirement?**
- **If permit, under which scenario? None apply**
- **This frustrates mandate to reduce organics in LF**

Cross Media Issue/Solutions

- H2O Summit Partners Directed CASA work w/State
- Roundtable May 2008 – Develop Checklist(s)
- Work Group with Cal EPA refined checklist & developed questionnaire for regulatory agencies
- Letter sent to Board Chairs urging adoption and implementation
- 2 meetings in next 2 weeks – Legislators & Reg

San Luis Obispo County

- **Considering ban of all biosolids on open space land in County**
- **Planning Commission approved in December**
- **CASA provided comments and testimony along with County Agencies**
- **BOS to consider in February**

Santa Ana WQCB Fire Reclamation

- **Emergency Resolution allows for compost use**
- **Successful projects in Rocky Mountains**
- **Promising meetings but no partners**
- **Regional Water Board remains very proactive!**
- **Extended Resolution for 5 years**

Bay Area B2E Status

- **16 SF Bay Area Agencies formed coalition**
- **RFQ out for prospective proposers – 2/19**
- **Siting and Technology under consideration**
- **Communication plan to engage public**
- **Biosolids to Energy Fundamental**