

BIOSOIDS

The General Order & Other Regulatory Issues

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State Water Resources Control Board

Today's Format

- Regulatory puzzle pieces
 - Federal
 - State
 - Local
- What is the General Order ?
- Do I need coverage ?
- How do I apply for coverage?
- Into the future ...



Regulatory Puzzle

Federal

- 1992: Ocean Dumping Ban Act implemented



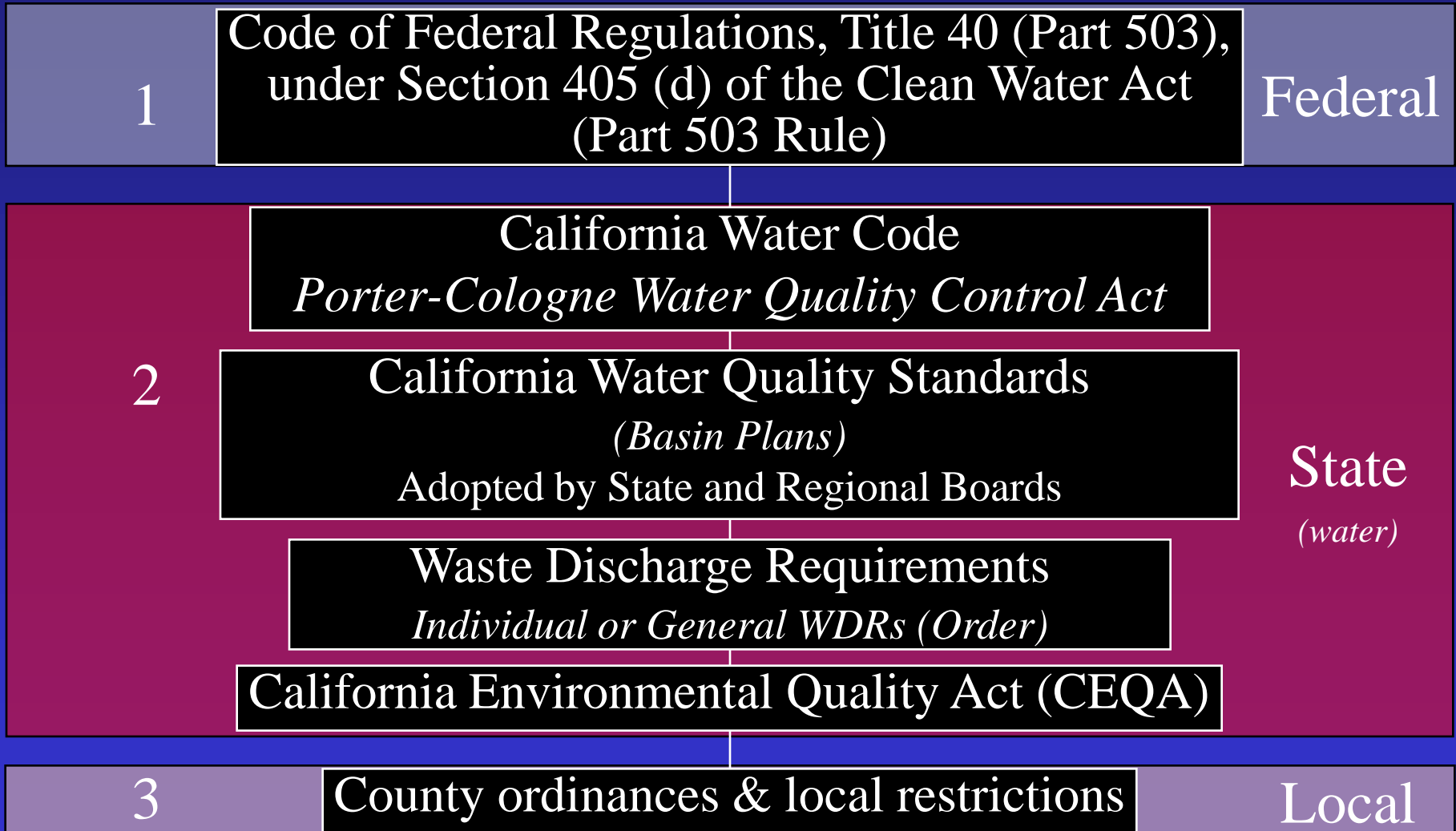
- 1993: Federal rule promulgated (Part 503 Rule)
- The Part 503 Rule is the foundation of all biosolids use regulations in the country.

Regulatory Puzzle

State

- 2004: Programmatic EIR and Statewide General Order adopted
- Ended extensive litigation (*at the state level*)
- General Order Administered by the Regional Water Boards
- Regional Water Board tools:
 - Implement the General Order
 - Site-specific Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)
 - Other

Regulatory Outline



Putting the Puzzle Together

Why is it so complicated?

- Convergence of technical and regulatory issues
 - Water quality
 - Waste management
 - Air quality
 - Public health
- Each operation is unique
- No 'delegated authority' for Part 503 Rule
- Local agencies may be more restrictive

Statewide General Order

What is it?

- Attempts to ‘streamline’ biosolids issues
- Establishes a statewide notification, permit, and review process
- Based on the Part 503 Rule
- Implements the Programmatic EIR
- Applicable to individuals and public entities
- Coverage is voluntary, but not automatic
- Informal ‘template’ for other biosolids permits

Statewide General Order

Significant Policy

- Authorizes land application of Class B biosolids
 - Class B and Class A equally protective of human health when used in accordance with the GO
- Among most restrictive statewide permits in the United States

The beneficial use of biosolids through land application under this General Order is environmentally sound and preferable to non-beneficial disposal

- Does not supercede local authority to regulate

Do I need Coverage?

When in doubt, ask the Regional Board

- Discharges that may affect water resources require Regional Board approval. (You may already have it)
 - Coverage under the GO
 - Individual WDRs or other permits implement the PEIR
 - Regional Board approvals mimic the GO
- Fully enclosed operations may not require coverage

How do I Apply?

- Work with the Regional Board to determine best permitting tool for your operation
 - GO, individual WDR, other, none
 - Soil sampling plan may be required
- Be prepared to fulfill the requirements of the GO, especially:
 - Notice of Intent
 - Pre-application report

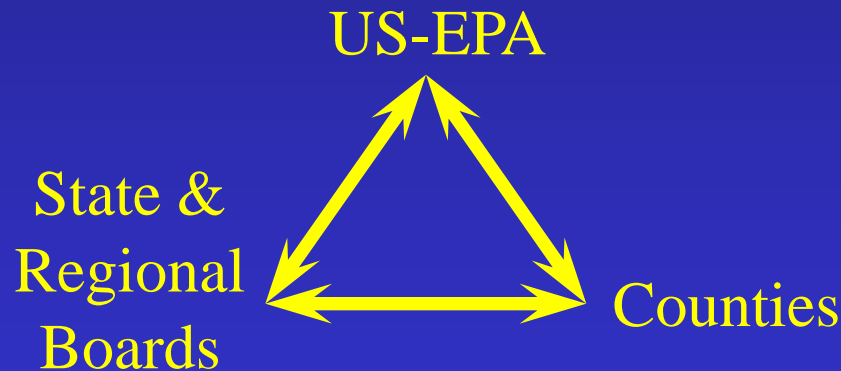
Key Requirements

- Characterize your biosolids, storage, and application areas
 - Metals
 - Nitrogen (all forms)
- Document key treatment parameters
 - Time, temperature, pH, etc.
- Prepare required plans
 - Application plan
 - Storage and transportation plan ...

Streamlining

Maximizing Resources

- GO is ministerial
 - i.e., No formal Board meetings required!
- Cooperation with other regulatory agencies



- Improved data management
 - CWIQS
 - Public Reporting tools

Into the Future

A new way of Thinking

- “Cradle to Grave” is old way of thinking
- “Resource Cycle” is new way of thinking
 - composting, renewable energy, cement manufacturing
 - recycled water, water conservation, energy production
- State Water Board generally supportive of innovative measures to reuse resources
- State Water Board developing approach for regulation of composting facilities
 - Notifying stakeholders about the compost project

Tool Kit

- Control of Pathogens and Vector Attraction in Sewage Sludge

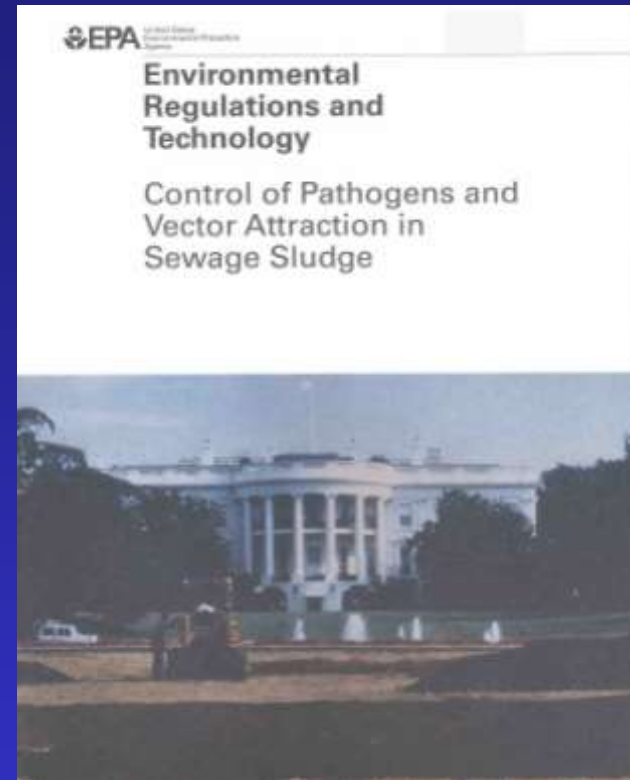
Committee U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,
Office of Research and Development, EPA/625/R-92/013,
Revised July 2003 (www.epa.gov/ORD/NRMRL/Pubs)

- A Plain English Guide to the EPA Part 503 Biosolids Rule

(www.epa.gov/owm/mtb/biosolids/503pe/index.htm)

- The Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators Guide to Biosolids Sampling Plans

New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, 2006
(www.neiwpcc.org/biosamplingguide.asp)



Questions?

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CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

References

Websites

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(waterboards.ca.gov)
- CIWQS Public Reports
(waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ciwqs/publicreports.shtml)
- Compost Program
(waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/land_disposal/compost.shtml)
- U.S. EPA Region IX
(epa.gov/region09)
(epa.gov/region8/water/)
- National Biosolids Partnership
(biosolids.policy.net)

