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March 6, 2014

Ms. Brenda Smyth, Branch Chief  
Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery  
1001 I Street / P.O. Box 4025  
Sacramento, CA 95812-4025

Dear Ms. Smyth:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the criteria for the CalRecycle Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grants and Loan Program. The California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) represents all 35 air pollution control officers in the state and is dedicated to improving public health and providing clean air for all of California's residents.

Our comments on the February 6, 2014 workshop loan and grant criteria handouts are below:

- **Obtaining Air Permits:** The Revolving Loan criteria require the applicant to obtain all permits prior to loan approval. Based on the availability of offsets, CEQA and other permitting challenges, this is a significant undertaking without any assurance of obtaining a loan. For the Grant criteria, the scoring criteria allows the applicant to list the status of the required air permits or offsets or to describe the steps the applicant will take to obtain the necessary air permits (but obtaining necessary permits is not specifically in the criteria). The grant applicant could potentially obtain a grant without a proposal that meets air district requirements for permitting, i.e. engines not meeting Best Available Control Technology (BACT) or applicants not having the ability to obtain offsets. Both the availability and cost of offsets can be a significant obstacle to obtaining permits in many districts.

*Recommendations:* For the Revolving Loan Program an applicant should be required to obtain an air permit prior to final loan approval. However, this may be a significant undertaking both financially and in terms of the time necessary to meet permit requirements and obtain the permit, consider preliminary loan approval prior to requiring all permitting being completed.

For the Grant Program require the applicant to include a preliminary permit determination or other certification by the air district of jurisdiction to ensure the proposal meets or will meet minimum air quality permit requirements.

- **Siting Criteria:** Nuisance odors from composting operations can be a significant local concern and should be considered when making siting decisions. The scoring/evaluation criteria should also include evaluation of GHG and criteria pollutant impacts of transporting materials to the composting site.

*Recommendation:* Include scoring criteria for siting decisions, including minimizing odor nuisance potential and accounting for transportation emissions.

- **Other Permit Requirements:** Under “Project Readiness and Permits” the scoring criteria has a detailed reference to CEQA and air permits, but not to compliance with other medias’ permitting requirements such as Title 14 Solid Waste and Water Quality (proposed impermeable pads) that should also be listed and factored into the scoring criteria.

*Recommendation:* Include a requirement for certification that the project meets (or will meet) all applicable media regulatory requirements.

- **Baseline Emissions Landfill versus Composting/Digestion:** Based on our current understanding and emissions information from both composting operations and landfills, composting operations may not reduce GHG or criteria pollutants and may have greater emissions than landfills controlled under existing federal, state, and local regulations. Organic waste projects utilizing anaerobic digestion should receive preferential scoring over traditional composting projects.

*Recommendation:* Provide additional scoring for anaerobic digestion in which the digester gas is controlled to minimize overall VOC and GHG emissions.

- **Criteria Pollutant Scoring Criteria:** The grant scoring criteria include points for criteria pollutant (including VOC) reductions for the composting operations. Districts generally concur that composting can result in an increase in VOC emissions unless physical or operational controls are required.

*Recommendation:* Consider how to address or score increases in VOC emissions from less controlled projects.

If you have any questions, please contact Ken Koyama at 916-441-5700. We look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,



Jack Broadbent  
President