

ITEM: 8
SUBJECT: Reuse of Food Processing By-Products Within Stanislaus County
BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of a Resolution*

BACKGROUND: In 1978, Stanislaus County established a voluntary Food Processing By-Products Use Program to encourage the diversion of solid and semi-solid food processing by-products from landfills. The Program provides guidelines for the discharge of this material to feedlots, cropland, composters, and a dehydrator. The entities enrolled under this program were formerly regulated under Regional Board Resolution No. 82-036, which waived WDRs for 23 categories of discharges. However, this waiver expired on 1 January 2003 with the passage of SB 390. Regional Board staff have been working since that time to determine an appropriate mechanism to regulate the entities enrolled in the County's Program.

ISSUES: Stanislaus County has requested that the Regional Board formally waive WDRs and allow the County to provide the direct regulatory oversight for the reuse of food processing by-products within the county. Staff have determined that it is not appropriate to proceed with a waiver at this time, as questions exist as to the impacts on water quality. Instead, staff have prepared a resolution that allows Stanislaus County to continue oversight of its program while it sponsors a study to (a) determine the effect of the land application of food processing by-products on water quality and (b) determine additional requirements or enhancements to the current Program that are necessary to ensure the protection of water quality and the environment. The study results will be used by the Regional Board to establish future waste discharge requirements or a waiver with appropriate conditions for the application of food processing by-products to land for those sites enrolled in the County Program.

The tentative resolution only applies to the animal feed and land application sites. Staff has determined, and the County has agreed, that it is more appropriate to regulate the composters and dehydrator under either individual or general WDRs.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed resolution.

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review _____

22/23 June 2006

Central Valley Regional Board Meeting
11020 Sun Center Dr. #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670