

**Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region
Board Meeting – 8/9/10 June 2011**

**Response to Written Comments for
General Order for Centralized Dairy Manure Anaerobic Digester or
Centralized Dairy Manure Co-digester Facilities
Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements**

At a public hearing scheduled for 8/9/10 June 2011, the Central Valley Water Board will consider adoption of General Order for Centralized Dairy Manure Anaerobic Digester or Centralized Dairy Manure Co-digester Facilities. This document contains responses to written comments received from interested parties regarding the tentative Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) circulated on 5 April 2011. Written comments were received from:

1. Western United Dairyman

1 WESTERN UNITED DAIRYMEN

COMMENT 1.1: Is there no allowance for the digested solids to go to uses besides land application? I envision an opportunity, albeit some time down the road that this kind of material could go to a biomass plant of some kind, burner, gasifier, etc. This could be an on-site operation, which would seem to be allowed, but may equally be somewhere off-site. Is there provision to handle this?

RESPONSE 1.1: The Order only allows off-site use of centralized digester wastes for land application to lands owned, leased, or controlled by the discharger, or to another waste applicator separately regulated under the Order, or the Dairy General Order. The waste could be transported off site for another type of use as long as the facility to which it is sent has waste discharge requirements or a waiver from the Central Valley Water Board that permits it to accept such waste.

COMMENT 1.2: It also appears that there is a prohibition to applying the digested product to any land other than dairy land. Even the dairy Order allows for off-site use on non-dairy cropland. Maybe I read it incorrectly, but can you please clarify for me?

RESPONSE 1.2: Centralized digester wastes may be applied to non-dairy cropland provided the land is covered by the Order.