The Synergistic Relationship Between Compost and Biomass

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History Repeating Itself

- Everything old is new again…
- This is not the first “Crisis” for Biomass
- “Blue Book” restructuring in 1994
- But could it be the last?
- This is really a POLICY question.
Compost and Biomass – A long relationship

- Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act (1978)
- Early adoption by Forestry Sector
- Spread to Agriculture and eventually Urban wood
- Existence of biomass processors primed development of compost infrastructure
- Passage of AB 939 (1989)
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Composters and Biomass

Figure 8
Volume of Product by Type

- Compost
- Mulch
- Boiler Fuel
- ADC
- Beneficial Reuse
- Other

Materials Produced

Cubic Yards Per Year

0
500,000
1,000,000
1,500,000
2,000,000
2,500,000
3,000,000
3,500,000
4,000,000
4,500,000
5,000,000

- All
- Composters
- Processors
Feedstock Matters

Green Material

Compost “Overs”
Feedstock Matters

Easy

Not So Easy
Other Uses for Wood

- Reuse and reduction
- Particle Board
- Mulch, colored mulch
- Direct land application
- Landfill
- Open burning
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- Reuse and reduction
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- Open burning (Wait, What?)
- Yes, farmers are still allowed to open burn!
Reuse!

Photo Courtesy Pinterest
Color!
Medium Density Fiber Board
Direct Land Application
Open Burning
(Still legal after all these years)

Photo Courtesy ARB
2012 - 2015
TREE MORTALITY
FROM DROUGHT AND WILDFIRE

Tree Mortality From Drought: 2012-2015
Tree Mortality from Wildfire: 2012-2015

Counties
In or Out?