

**Biodiesel Task Force  
Biodiesel Dispensing and Storage  
Site Permitting Summary**

**INTRODUCTION**

Biodiesel and vegetable based fuels move through a distribution infrastructure prior to deposition into vehicle tanks. The fuel is transferred to and from storage tanks in both the residential and commercial sectors. Biodiesel will be stored and used in a more diverse manner than traditional petroleum based fuels due to increased accessibility and differing physical characteristics of the fuels.

Regular gas stations can be permitted through an existing permitting process through the following agencies: Department of Building Inspection, Planning Department, Department of Public Health, Fire Department and regional agency via Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

The following is a list of scenarios where biodiesel is dispensed into vehicles through a fueling infrastructure that is different from the regular gas station. This fueling infrastructure may be seen due to the reduced toxicity and volatility of these fuels compared to petroleum fuels. In addition, the availability of the fuel is far greater and can be acquired in an agriculture area or at a restaurant. Both supplier and consumer scenarios will be reviewed to identify the permitting agency.

Biofuels blended with traditional petroleum fuels take on the characteristics of both the mixed fuels. The following discussion is for product dispensing that is not governed by existing regular gas station regulations and therefore permitted as such. The product dispensed in the following scenarios must match the properties of a different liquid. Biodiesel in blends excess of B?? meet this requirement. The properties of pure biodiesel as related to regulations are as follows: ???

**SCENARIO OVERVIEW**

**Scenario 1 - Business dispensing biodiesel**

In a commercial area, a current business such as an automobile repair shop, would like to begin dispensing biodiesel for their customers. All commercial business that have a space for holding a tank and vehicle access are potential options.

**Scenario 2 - Buyers club dispensing biodiesel**

Buyers clubs purchase fuel in bulk quantity and have it delivered to a location, residential or commercial, to be picked up by members. This fuel can be poured directly into vehicle's tanks or into plastic fueling jugs.

**Scenario 3 - Personal use in a residential and/or commercial area**

Residents of San Francisco can purchase fuel in bulk to store at home or in their vehicle. This storage capability allows for ease of fueling and reduced frequency of searching for a fueling availability.

**Scenario 4 - Commercial use in a commercial area**

Commercial fleets wishing to use biodiesel can purchase fuel in bulk and store it on site to be used as needed. This fuel will be used only by the commercial entity and the volume of storage will be maximized to reduce cost and frequency of delivery.

### **Scenario 5 - Filling of residential and commercial storage tanks**

The tanks at both residential and commercial sites will need to be filled by a fueling truck. This activity will need to take place periodically as fuel is used.

### **Scenario 6 - Mobile Dispensing of fuel for special events and fleet vehicles, blended or neat**

Public events such as car shows, earth day events, parades, concerts and press conferences, may include fueling of generators, trucks and specialized equipment. In addition, construction equipment on construction sites will need to be filled periodically. Other mobile fueling activities would include “wet” fueling which is one truck filling an entire truck fleet that has been parked for the night.

## PERMITTING ANALYSIS

### **Scenario 1 - Business dispensing biodiesel blended or neat**

In a commercial area, a current business such as an automobile repair shop, would like to begin dispensing biodiesel for their customers. All commercial business that have a space for holding a tank and vehicle access are potential options.

#### Building Department

Permit application name and fee amount  
Building Code considerations for storage

#### Planning Department:

To be permitted as an “Automobile Gas Station” as defined in Sec. 790.14/ Sec. 890.14 of the Planning Code or as a new/different use?

Are there restrictions as to the type of commercial entity that can dispense?

#### Health Department

Above ground storage tanks most common, requirements for containment, relevant CA Food and Agriculture laws and regulations

#### Fire Department

Storage volumes within buildings, electrical wiring requirements

#### Bay Area Air Quality Management District

Exempt from regulation?

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### **Scenario 2 - Buyers club dispensing biodiesel**

Buyers clubs purchase fuel in bulk quantity and have it delivered to a location, residential or commercial, to be picked up by members. This fuel can be poured directly into vehicle’s tanks or into plastic fueling jugs.

#### Building Department

Permit application name and fee amount  
Building Code considerations for storage

#### Planning Department:

To be permitted as an “Automobile Gas Station” as defined in Sec. 790.14/ Sec. 890.14 of the Planning Code or as a new/different use?

Are there restrictions as to the type of commercial entity that can dispense?

#### Health Department

Above ground storage tanks most common, requirements for containment, relevant CA Food and Agriculture laws and regulations including variance program

#### Fire Department

Storage volumes within buildings, electrical wiring requirements

Bay Area Air Quality Management District

Exempt from regulation?

### **Scenario 3 - Personal use in a residential and/or commercial area**

Residents of San Francisco can purchase fuel in bulk to store at home or in their vehicle. This storage capability allows for ease of fueling and reduced frequency of searching for a fueling availability.

Building Department

Permit application name and fee amount

Building Code considerations for storage

Planning Department:

Applicable use permit

Health Department

Above ground storage tanks most common such as drums and totes, requirements for containment, volume reporting

Fire Department

Storage volumes within buildings, electrical wiring requirements, volume reporting

Bay Area Air Quality Management District

Exempt from regulation?

### **Scenario 4 - Commercial use in a commercial area**

Commercial fleets wishing to use biodiesel can purchase fuel in bulk and store it on site to be used as needed. This fuel will be used only by the commercial entity and the volume of storage will be maximized to reduce cost and frequency of delivery.

Building Department

Permit application name and fee amount

Building Code considerations for storage

Planning Department:

Applicable use permit

Health Department

Above ground storage tanks most common such as drums and totes, requirements for containment, volume reporting

Fire Department

Storage volumes within buildings, electrical wiring requirements, volume reporting

Bay Area Air Quality Management District

Exempt from regulation?

### **Scenario 5 - Filling of residential and commercial storage tanks**

The tanks at both residential and commercial sites will need to be filled by a fueling truck. This activity will need to take place periodically as fuel is used.

Building Department

No applicable submission?

Planning Department:

No applicable submission?

Health Department

Spill prevention measures and protocols, pumping system requirements

Fire Department

Mobile fueling permit needed for each delivery or general delivery permit?

Bay Area Air Quality Management District

Exempt from regulation?

**Scenario 6 - Mobile Dispensing of fuel for special events and fleet vehicles, blended or neat**

Public events such as car shows, earth day events, parades, concerts and press conferences, may include fueling of generators, trucks and specialized equipment. In addition, construction equipment on construction sites will need to be filled periodically. Other mobile fueling activities would include “wet” fueling which is one truck filling an entire truck fleet that has been parked for the night.

Building Department

No applicable submission?

Planning Department:

No applicable submission?

Health Department

Spill prevention measures and protocols, pumping system requirements

Fire Department

Mobile fueling permit needed for each event or general delivery/fueling permit possible?

Bay Area Air Quality Management District

Exempt from regulation?

STATE & FEDERAL AGENCY REGULATING REVIEW

Applicable California State Agencies

California Environment Protection Agency

State Water Board

Applicable Federal State Agencies

Federal Environmental Protection Agency