

DRAFT DOCUMENT

Joanna Hayes-White
San Francisco Fire Chief
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San Francisco, California 94107
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Secretary.FireChief@sfgov.org

Re: SF Biodiesel Access Task Force – Fee Waiver Proposal and Discussion

The Board of Supervisors has appointed a Biodiesel Access Task Force to increase the availability of biodiesel to the public. The Biodiesel Access Task Force reports to the appropriate city departments, the Board of Supervisors, and the Mayor on all aspects of biodiesel fuel, including city-wide strategies and incentives that would increase the use of biodiesel fuel by consumers, vendors, and the city's municipal fleets; and ways to streamline and put into action the necessary permit process for biodiesel filling stations.

In accordance with this, the Biodiesel Task Force would like to inquire about the possibility of a fee waiver as an incentive to dispense biodiesel. This would not be a blanket waiver and would be judged on a case-by-case basis at your discretion. This is to benefit existing and new franchise gas stations and small business owners here in San Francisco to dedicate tank and fueling infrastructure to the alternative fuel, biodiesel. In addition, Biodiesel Task Force understands that from an environmental protection view, there is no real difference between B20 and regular mineral diesel. This letter only addresses pure or greater than B99 (99% percent biodiesel) dispensing locations.

The public will benefit from this increased biodiesel use due to the reduced risks of fire with this alternative fuel. We understand that the Fire Chief has the authorization to waive SFFD fees for businesses. We request that your review include B99 biodiesel dispensing as an opportunity for a fee waiver.

The following are our general recommendations on the scope and qualifications for a fee waiver:

- This accommodation for biodiesel should last for as long as you feel it benefits public access.
- Each applicant should be reviewed at your discretion on a case-by-case basis and only for good environmental performers.
- The fee waiver would be fully revocable at any time due to new site conditions.
- The request for a fee waiver would occur during the normal permit review process.
- The fee reduction would apply only to the tanks and infrastructure used for biodiesel.
- A reconsideration of increasing the total number of fees waived if more incentives are needed for new biodiesel dispensing start-ups in SF.

Your consideration of this matter is greatly appreciated. If you have any comments or concerns regarding these recommendations, please do let us know.

Respectfully,

The San Francisco Biodiesel Access Taskforce

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Laurence Kornfield
Chief Building Inspector
CCSF Department of Building Inspection
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San Francisco, CA 94103
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Email: Laurence M. Kornfield/DBI/SFGOV

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The public will benefit from this increased biodiesel use due to the reduced public risks of this alternative fuel. We understand that the Chief Building Inspector has the authorization to waive DBI fees for businesses. We request that your review include B99 biodiesel dispensing as an opportunity for a fee waiver.

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