



## CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO BIODIESEL ACCESS TASK FORCE

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### **Re: SF Biodiesel Access Task Force – Request for SFFD Biodiesel Permit Working Group**

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 the creation of a SFFD Biodiesel Permit Working Group. The focus of this group would be to work through the California Fire Code and identify which sections apply to the storage and handling of the new alternative fuel Biodiesel.

The California Fire Code sections that guide project planning and review for fueling and storage of road fuel are intrinsically linked to petroleum fuel and its properties. Regular petroleum fuel is a hazardous and flammable substance and the code requirements reflect this. Biodiesel is a Class IIIB liquid which is safer than regular diesel. The Fire Code unfortunately has linked fueling engines to the hazardous nature of the fuel. With this new change in fuel, the Fire Code's restrictions may not apply and significantly hamper the use and access to this alternative fuel.

The SFFD Biodiesel Permit Working Group would be formed of one or more Fire Department Plan Review Professionals and members of the Biodiesel Access Task Force. The work will be to review current projects and develop project scenarios to provided assistance to project planners and reviewers. Inspector John Kurd has offered to help guide this process and has already been very helpful with other biodiesel permitting projects.

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

Respectfully,

Eric Bowen, Chair  
The San Francisco Biodiesel Access Taskforce

Cc: John Curd  
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