



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO BIODIESEL ACCESS TASK FORCE

Joanna Hayes-White
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Re: SF Biodiesel Access Task Force – Request for SFFD Biodiesel Permit Working Group

I am writing in my capacity as Chair of the Biodiesel Access Task Force. The Board of Supervisors appointed the Task Force to increase the availability of biodiesel to the public. The Task Force reports to 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 the permit process for biodiesel filling stations.

Members of the Task Force are interested in establishing an informal Permit Working Group that would consist of one or more Fire Department Plan Review Professional and one or more members of the Task Force. This informal group would study and make proposals to the Task Force (and ultimately City policymakers) concerning how -if at all- California Fire Code provisions applicable to permitting road fuel fueling and storage reasonably could be modified for facilities handling of Biodiesel. California Fire Code requirements appear to pose a significant barrier to establishing public Biodiesel fueling and storage facilities. We suspect that the Code requirements are intrinsically linked to properties of petroleum fuel that are not presented by Biodiesel. Specifically, regular petroleum fuel is a hazardous and flammable substance, while Biodiesel is a Class IIIB liquid, which is far less volatile than regular diesel.

Inspector John Kurd has offered (with your permission) to help the Working group and/or serve on the working group. He already has been very helpful with biodiesel permitting projects.

We appreciate your consideration, and hopefully support for, the proposed Fire Department/Task Force Working Group. We would like to start work as soon as possible in this new year.

If you have any comments or concerns, please do let us know.

Respectfully,
Eric Bowen, Chair
The San Francisco Biodiesel Access Taskforce
Cc: John Curd
Bureau of Fire Prevention
Plan Review
1660 Mission Street

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