



# DOCKET

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**December 29, 2010**

**California Energy Commission Dockets Office, MS-4  
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**Re: Docket No. 10-BAP-01 - Preparation of the 2011 Bioenergy Action Plan**

TSS Consultants appreciates the opportunity to review the *Draft 2011 Bioenergy Action Plan* (2011 Plan), and offers the following comments and suggestions regarding the Plan and its current contents.

Page 13, Paragraph 1 - We caution CEC on the overreliance using signed power purchase agreements with the investor owned utilities (IOUs) for biomass power plants as the only metric for estimating biomass power capacity to come online. Upon review of the referenced database it was noted there are several biomass plants on those databases that either have been cancelled or the likelihood of them ever getting built is extremely questionable – based on permitting or financial issues (and combination thereof). It is recommended that CEC staff further vet the proposed projects on the database to determine if such projects are moving forward to completion and operation.

Page 19, Table 3-3 – Given the very significant decrease in timber harvesting activities on forested public lands (primarily U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management) over the last two decades, and coupled with the difficulties that the federal land managers are having with funding hazardous fuels reduction programs, it is suggested that the Forestry Feedstock Source be further delineated between privately and publicly owned.

Page 22, Paragraph 2, last sentence – This sentence should be clarified that lignin as a by-product during cellulosic ethanol production occurs only with the biochemical platform, and not through thermochemical conversion.

Page 22, Paragraph 3 – Although we agree that collocating biofuels projects with existing biomass power plants has environmental benefits, there may also be competition between the two for feedstock/fuel. However, if a biofuels facility is collocated with new biopower, the feedstock/fuel issue can be mitigated by proper sizing of each facility based on available biomass in the region.

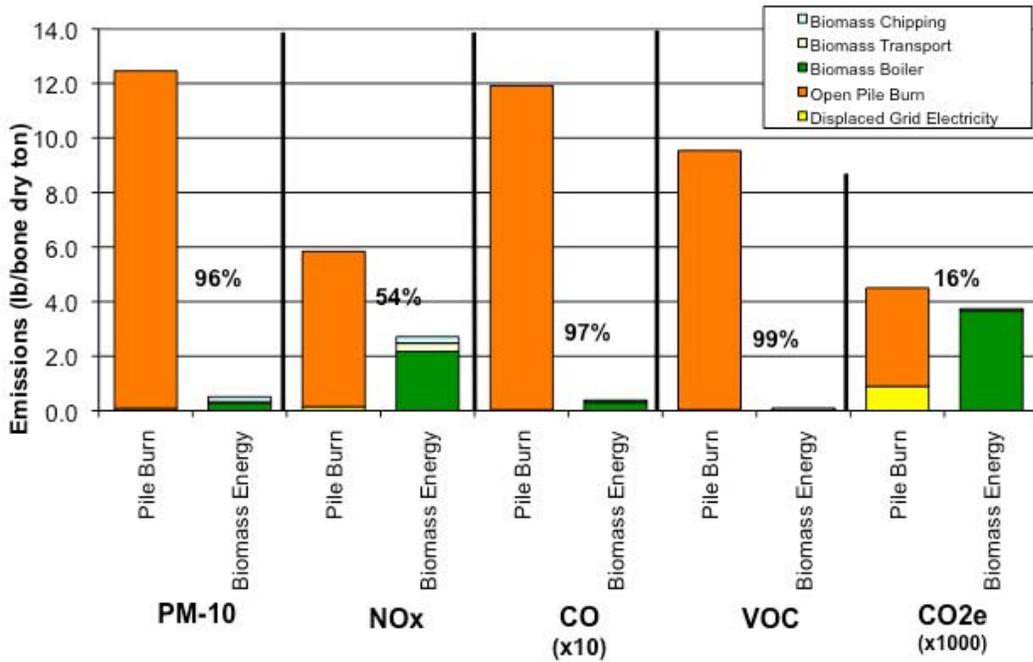
Page 25, Paragraph 6 – We recommend that particulate matter (or its acronym PM) be used instead of soot in the 2011 Plan. It is our experience working with nearly every air district in California and several air quality departments in other states and Canadian provinces that

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particulate matter is the universally descriptor. To describe very small PM, the micron size, such as 2.5 and 10 are used instead of soot. It should be noted that PM emissions are also generated at biomass power plants from non-combustion activities (e.g., fugitive emissions from fuel piles, unpaved roads and fuel yards).

Page 27, U.S. EPA MACT Proposed Ruling – Discussion needs updating to reflect the U.S. EPA petition to the District Court for a postponement of implementing the MACT rules until April 2012. The EPA received thousands of comments regarding these proposed rules and requires more time regarding the standards currently proposed.

Page 28, Paragraph 2 – Although greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and bioenergy are discussed at length in the Plan, other air pollutant emissions to which bioenergy offers much greater control efficiency than open burning, or in wildfire, do not receive enough attention. Biomass power plants with their controlled combustion and add-on emission controls very significantly reduce criteria pollutants such as NOx, VOC, CO, and PM. We suggest perhaps a separate subsection that fully describes these benefits, and even how they are already occurring through existing biomass power plants in the state. Graphics such as the one below, visually and dramatically show the benefits.<sup>1</sup>



Page 29, Last Paragraph, Last Sentence – Although we agree that air districts have permit requirements for both flares and prime movers to generate electricity, these two activities can be, and in some cases that we have seen, conditioned in the same permit. However, many air districts continue the routine practice of issuing a separate permit for each emission unit.

<sup>1</sup> Graphic prepared by Placer County Air Pollution Control District

Page 33, Paragraph 2, next to last sentence – sentence should state “reduce GHG *and criteria pollutants*, “

Page 38, Last Paragraph – Text should indicate that the CEC recently awarded AB 118 funding to a project which will use forest sourced biomass to produce biomethane.

Page 40, Paragraph 2, first sentence – Insert bio-oil in list of advanced biofuels. Also add “and stationary engines” following existing vehicles.

Page 40, Paragraph 3 – It should be added that the DOE is also funding a large number of projects for development of advanced biofuels other than ethanol.

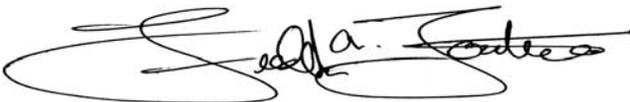
Page 44, 1.1 Web-Based Portal for Permitting Guidance and Information – An effort should be made to acquire and post example permits on the web site for existing and planned bioenergy projects. Included with such permits, it would also be valuable to have the accompanying application(s), and agency review documents (i.e., engineering evaluation).

Page 45, 1.4. AB 1318 – Wildfire Emissions Offset Credits for PM – We concur with the suggestions given by Mr. Thomas Christofk, APCO of the Placer County Air Pollution Control District in his December 29, 2010 comment letter on the 2011 Plan.

Page 47, 2.2 Increase Use of Forest Biomass Harvested for Wildfire Fuel Reduction – The U.S. Forest Service, Region 5 should be included in this action as well. Further, it would be prudent to include the U.S. Forest Service as ex officio member of the Bioenergy Interagency Working Group. There is a great need for close collaboration with the federal forest managers regarding this action.

TSS Consultants looks forward to working with the Bioenergy Interagency Working Group, and the various state agency members, in promoting and expanding the use of California’s abundant biomass resource. The 2011 Bioenergy Action Plan is an excellent step in that direction. We are available to answer any questions, or provide any further information or clarification, you may have on our above comments.

**Respectfully yours,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred T. Tornatore", written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

**FREDERICK TORNATORE**  
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