



ASSOCIATION OF COMPOST PRODUCERS

“We Build Healthy Soil”

2008 - 2009 Annual Report



ACP MISSION

The **Association of Compost Producers** (ACP) is a non-profit association of public and private organizations dedicated to increasing the quality, value and amount of compost being used in California. We do this by promoting activities and regulations that build healthy soil, benefiting people and protecting air, water and soil.

ACP members work and invest together to increase compost markets and improve compost product & manufacturing standards. The association provides education & communication on compost benefits & proper use through support of scientific research & legislation aligned with developing and expanding quality compost markets.

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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: OVERVIEW OF ACP 2008 TO 2009

All of us know, personally and directly, the challenges of 2008-2009. Officially, the global recession began in November 2007, with the “melt down” of the financial markets in Fall 2008. ACP members, be they public, private, non-profit, or educational, have all felt the effects of the past year and a half. During this time, ACP has engaged in ongoing introspection as well as integrated action in the key areas of:

1. **Projects:** What projects should we continue, expand or initiate, given our limited budget?
2. **Membership:** How best can we gain more members to join us in implementing our mission?
3. **Issues:** What are the key issues and challenges of the compost industry?
4. **Actions:** How can we, collectively, work to turn our challenges into opportunities?

Owing in large measure to the fiscal and industry challenges, this annual report is actually a report of the past year and a half, and it aligns, not incidentally, with both ACP’s fiscal year end, June 30th, 2009 and the emergence of the larger economy out of the recession. However, at this writing, the California State government, a partner in many of ACP’s ongoing projects, is in a fiscal stalemate. Even in this challenging financial climate, ACP members continue to look and move forward with positive intent and action to manifest its mission of expanding quality compost markets in California. In addition, we always strive to engage with each other, our clients and our supportive partners (like the State and Regional Environmental Agencies) from a perspective that holds true to our association’s Vision, Mission and Values (see them in Appendix 3.1).

Some of the highlights of the last year and a half, from January 2008 through June 2009, include:

1. **Compost Market Expansion Projects:** Statewide, co-sponsored compost market expansion project leadership:
 - a. Agricultural Compost Project initiation and completion
 - b. Compost Utilization by Local Governments, initiated
 - c. ACP System Outline for Building Recycled Organics Markets
 - d. Green Building & Biosecurity Initiatives, initiated
2. **ACP Membership:** Expanding our membership activities
 - a. Booth at USCC, Brochures and Talks at BioCycle ’08 & ’09
 - b. Face to face meetings with prospective members in the San Joaquin Valley
 - c. New ACP, four color, professional/membership brochure
 - d. New ACP member signed up in 2008
3. **Compost Legislation & Regulations:** Extensive legislative and regulatory involvement, specifically:
 - a. AB 1881 – Landscape Model Ordinance; testimony and recommendations.
 - b. AB 32 – Climate Change Scoping Plan; tracking the role of compost in GHG mitigation, testimony and recommendations for compost inclusion in measures
 - c. Regional Water Boards – tracking and working with Santa Ana Regional Board on salt in compost issues

- d. ADC Policy – recommendations to the CIWMB (Waste Board)
 - e. Draft Rule 4566 – Composting Green Waste; testimony, recommendations, participating on the Technical Working Group
 - f. CIWMB Barriers to Facility Siting – participation and recommendations
 - g. Riverside County Ordinance 779.9 - testimony, recommendations
 - h. Cross Media Checklist – Participation in workgroup and recommendations
 - i. CIWMB Organics Toolbox – Prepared by the Waste Board to offer local governments support in recycling their organic waste streams locally
 - j. CIWMB Compost Life Cycle Assessment Project – tracking, testimony, recommendations
4. **Compost Education:** Multiple conference and workshop presentations
- a. Conferences: USCC, Biocycle, CRRA
 - b. Workshops: Agriculture Compost Specifications and Use, Caltrans and Local Government Compost Use

It bears pointing out that this list doesn't include all of the ongoing announcements and discussions by and between members at each of the monthly ACP meetings. One of the main purposes and accomplishments of any ACP gathering is the opportunity to meet regularly and discuss issues with colleagues within the compost industry. Those activities support and enliven the actual accomplishments outlined in this Annual Report over the past year and a half.

Most importantly, all the ACP members deserve high praise and acknowledgment for their vision, time and financial support of the implementation of ACP's mission (see member list in Appendix 3.2). Without their clear intention and support, this important compost producer industry association would not exist, and we would not be making the positive movement in the direction of expanding quality compost utilization in California.

2 ACP ACTIONS AND RESULTS

In chronological order, ACP's specific actions and results, from January 2008 through June 2009 are summarized in a table in the Appendix of this report. While ACP members and staff have performed many significant actions in the past year and a half, we can see we have met with mixed results. Reviewing our results and moving forward during these tumultuous times is the passion and the purpose of the Association of Compost Producers. Each of these actions and results are discussed in greater detail in the body and appendices of this Annual Report, along with the supporting documents that are posted on ACP's website (www.healthsoil.org).

We discuss these activities and outcomes in a little greater detail, with cited references in the body of this report. The actions and results are divided into the main sections of ACP's mission, namely:

- Compost Market Expansion Projects
- ACP Membership
- Compost Legislation & Regulations
- Compost Education

2.1 Compost Market Expansion Projects

As clearly articulated in ACP's mission, our association is *“dedicated to increasing the quality, value and amount of compost being used in California. We do this by promoting activities and regulations that build healthy soil, benefiting people and protecting air, water and soil. ACP members work and invest together to increase compost markets and improve compost product & manufacturing standards.”* Along these lines, ACP staff and members have been engaged over the past year and a half on two statewide, co-sponsored compost market expansion projects, in a project leadership capacity. They are the:

- Agricultural Compost Use Project (\$150,000 total project budget), and
- Compost Utilization by Local Governments (\$200,000 total project budget)

In addition, ACP continues to lead the industry in articulating both the barriers and opportunities to define and expand compost markets in California. These are outlined in this section.

Agricultural Compost Project

The Agricultural Compost Specifications project was initiated in late 2007, with the bulk of the work completed in 2008 to 2009. The objective of the project was to “improve and expand compost use in agriculture by providing reliable, scientifically-derived information on suitable compost properties to California farmers.” A Project Overview is provided in the Appendix of this report. The finished report can be found in the “ACP Documents” section of the “ACP Initiatives and Results” tab on our web site, www.healthsoil.org. It is titled: “AgCompost-Final Project Report 051409.doc”. The results, conclusions and recommendations are contained in that report, and that report has an additional 40 reference documents that were generated as a core part of the work product of that study, and that are available as appendices to the Final Project Report.

Some of the main highlights of the study were uncovering both the barriers and opportunities for compost producers in the very large potential agricultural compost market in California. These became part of the

ACP's recent "Compost Dynamics" document (see "ACP Document" online as "ACP- Steps - June 2009.xls"). Some of the key conclusions and recommendations of this project were:

Conclusions

- There exists a wide diversity of uses and opinions of farmers on using compost on the key crops studied, showing that compost will have to be heavily and actively marketed to those growers of:
 - Grape
 - Tomato
 - Lettuce
 - Strawberry
 - Almond & Avocado
- These crops, collectively represent over seven (7) billion dollars of annual economic productivity in California:
 - Grape (all types) - \$2.8 billion
 - Tomato (fresh and processing) - \$1.1 billion
 - Lettuce (all types) - \$1.6 billion
 - Strawberry - \$1.2 billion
 - Almond & Avocado - \$2.3 billion
- Total universe of acreage and potential market for the five crops chosen is 2 million acres and from \$100 to \$400 million for composters
- Salinity of compost was identified as the parameter most in need of development and testing
- EC (electrical conductivity) of the soil-compost mixtures at different rates of compost applications could be accurately predicted using a Compost Use Index procedure
- Specifications for the above crops were determined from the literature and from original research
- The Compost Use Index was developed as a "three part system" of 1) STA testing, 2) crop specific agricultural specifications and 3) Compost Use Index
- The proposed Compost Use Index was seen as a potentially useful tool, as long as its:
 - Readily accessible and easy to use, by growers and/or advisors
 - Soil testing was made a consistent part of a new index
 - Distinctions were made for feedstock that accommodated "organic certification" methods
- Local RCD's (Resource Conservation Districts) are very compatible and willing and knowledgeable partners to team with compost producers
- Ongoing compost workshops are useful not on to deliver information, but as a forum for developing ongoing working relationships between compost producers and growers
- The Compost Use Index has been a valuable tool for educating and communicating with water and air quality regulators

Recommendations

- The Compost Use Index should be made part of the emerging "Organics Toolbox" initiated by the State Waste Board
- Determine best form of integral leadership between various disciplines of government, science, extension and industry (both compost producers and growers)
- Expand compost specifications to all levels of application for each crop type, i.e. to include the crop growth phases of 1) germination, 2) initial planting (transplanting) and 3) maintenance

- Determine the best method to set up a Compost Use “wiki” process for both marketing and continued development of the Compost Use Index. (for Wiki see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiki>). This will have to be managed by ACP or some other organization
- Make specific recommendations about the nutrient issues in the compost specifications and applications
- Better marketing of STA, ahead of the specifications and use index, i.e. working more closely and ongoing with USCC, in California
- Start a discussion about resolving some of the feedstock issues outlined in the conclusions above
- Start a discussion (new project?) about how to “enforce”, or better, “assure” the use of STA and the specifications and Compost Use Index beyond this project
- Articulate the Safety Parameter as per suggestions from the interviewees
- Begin a concerted effort to include Soil Food Web information and OMRI listing methods in our tripartite system of 1) STA testing, 2) crop specific agricultural specifications and 3) Compost Use Index
- Harmonize STA other certification systems: Create a strategy and tactics (business and marketing plan) that will create collaboration, cooperation and “harmonizing” of the STA compost testing methods and reporting with systems OMRI, CCOF, USDA NOP, Primus Lab, OFAC (with CDFA)
- Proactively Manage Food Safety in the Application Specs & Protocols: Implement the compost safety protocol recommended and used by Comgro Soil Amendments, Inc.
- Create market specific messages: For specific industry categories (small farm generalists to large, crop specific growers) create market messages for the STA that are specific industry constituencies (see Index Marketing Opportunities)
- Disallow “Chip and Grind” facilities: The STA system, and our entire tripartite approach to compost quality and eliminating bad experiences requires that the Waste Board eliminate the “chip and grind” designation, since there is literally millions of tons of “organics amendments” currently being produced without not only a compost permit (time and temperature) but also the material is NOT being STA tested. This material undercuts the entire efficacy of our current program. The Waste Board should disallow the “production” of this material

Compost Utilization by Local Governments

Building off the experience of the previous Caltrans projects funded by the Waste Board (see ACP annual reports for 2006 and 2007), a third project consisting of two demonstration sites, as well as 9 workshops was initiated in 2008 and will carry through to 2010, focused on expanding compost utilization by local governments. ACP has been participating by both sponsoring workshops, providing technical advice as well as providing information to workshop attendees about the testing and sourcing of quality compost, produced by our members. One example of a recent workshop held in the San Fernando Valley, Burbank, CA, is shown in the Appendix. About five more workshops are going to be held, in addition to a completion of the two compost demonstration sites; one in the Bay Area (San Jose, CA) and the other in Southern California (Riverside, CA).

ACP System Outline for Building Recycled Organics Markets

In a letter to the California Integrated Waste Management Board from the Association of Compost Producers (ACP),¹ dated March 26, 2008, ACP Board recommended that “the *Waste Board initiate an ongoing, sustainable, coordinated composting and bioenergy market channel development system*, including sufficient standards, capacities and end use market information. This would be a “cradle to cradle” management model for California organics generation and sustainable reuse. We could call this new system, or tool, a “Local Organics Advocacy & Marketing” System (LOAM System).”

ACP submitted a “white paper” that outlined such a sustainable market development system to be initiated by the State Waste Board and used by all organics stakeholders (especially local jurisdictions and private organics management companies). (Posted on the “ACP Document Library” on its website as “ACP System Outline to Build Organics Mrkts 050108.doc”. The purpose of the system is to manage the orderly diversion of *all* organic resources from ending up in landfills, and being beneficially reused for building healthy soil, recycled organic building materials or biomass energy generation. This project proposal is still part of list of “Project Ideas” submitted in June 2009 for Waste Board consideration, at the Waste Board’s request, as per the next section.

New Compost Market Expansion Initiatives

Most recently, while completing the major Ag Compost project above (and remaining engaged in current compost market expansion projects), ACP has engaged in the outlining of a set of new project directions for moving forward in 2009 and 2010. These are:

- **Project Ideas for Expanding Compost Use** – This is a brainstorm and documentation of twelve (12) compost market expansion ideas submitted to the Waste Board for consideration in May, 2009. The document is 11 pages and can be found on the “ACP Documents” page on ACP’s web site as “Compost Project Ideas 052309.doc”. They include recommendations to initiate new projects, as well as continue existing projects that show continued promise, but remain incomplete, owing to lack of funding, at this time.
- **Organic Resource /Compost Industry Dynamics - and ACP Project Focus** – As a result of ACP’s collective decades of compost producer member experience, combined with a single focus to expand quality compost markets in California, ACP members have outlined a list of 20 “items/issues” that represent that current state of the compost industry in California. In addition to that, we have outlined the “Traditional” environmental perspectives on these issues, and shown a way forward into the new, emerging “Sustainability Approaches” relative to each of these issues. This represents clear opportunities for ACP to lead solutions and or resolutions of these issues as we continue to move forward with our mission. This document was put together in June 2009 and is posted as an MS Excel document on the “ACP Documents” page on ACP’s web site as “ACP- Steps - June 2009.xls”.
- **Green Build and Biosecurity** – As a consequence of reviewing the bewilderingly complex issues facing California compost producers, and in order to focus ACP member

¹ See full text of the letter in Appendix 5.1 of that document, which is posted on the ACP Document” page on ACP’s Website.

attention and resources on key workable initiatives, the ACP Board chose to focus on two main initiatives that can encompass most of the issues and project ideas. They are:

- **Green Building:** All compost uses, specifications and especially ordinances, on using compost to both earn LEED certification points for green builders, as well as to comply or exceed all LID (low impact development) and sustainable landscape practices. (possibly modeled after Washington State's new ordinances, www.soilsforsalmon.org and www.buildingsoils.org).
- **Biosecurity:** Issues related to "compost health and safety." Includes, plant (human and livestock) disease or chemical pollution transmission by uncomposted green waste, as well as food safety issues that may arise from uncomposted food waste, manures and biosolids.

These two main project foci were also put on the "Organic Resource /Compost Industry Dynamics - and ACP Project Focus" matrix as to how they relate to the 20 Compost Industry Dynamic issues and are listed in the MS Excel document on the "ACP Documents" page on ACP's web site as "ACP- Steps - June 2009.xls". ACP members have already held one meeting (in July 2009) to begin outlining a strategy and tactics for moving forward with the Green Building portion of this initiative and the first steps of that process will be presented and discussed further at the July 2009 meeting, articulating specific move forward steps.

2.2 ACP Membership

In the past year and a half, ACP has expanded its membership activities. Owing to the experience of mixed results, ACP articulated some of the perceived barriers to acquiring new members. Both the initiatives and the barriers are outlined here. It will be one of the main goals of ACP to overcome these barriers and build active membership in 2009 and 2010.

New Member Initiatives and Sign Ups

The new member initiatives in the past 1½ years has been booths at USCC, face to face meetings, new marketing materials, and signing up of key new members.

- **Booth at USCC:** For the first time in ACP's history, we had a booth at the US Composting Council conference (2008 in Oakland, CA). Many members contributed materials, pictures, and time at the booth in the exhibit hall. In addition, ACP Executive Director, Dan Noble, circulated in the Exhibit Hall and conference mixers and hallways specifically asking and requesting for new members to ACP. Additionally we provided ACP brochures and talks/presentations at the BioCycle '08 & '09 conferences in San Diego, CA. ACP received no new signups from these activities of time and money investment.
- **Face to Face Meetings:** As part of attending the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District Rule 4566 – Composting Green Waste rule making process, ACP Executive Director, Dan Noble, set up meetings in the San Joaquin Valley with four (4) prospective compost producer members: Kevin Baker, City of Bakersfield, green waste composting facility, Nathan Gorth, City of Modesto, co-composting facility, Mark Grover, Grover Landscape Solutions, Kim Carrier, Norcal Waste (now Recology). We obtained no new members from these meetings, however, we did hear directly what some of the barriers for members joining ACP. These are outlined and discussed in the next section.
- **New Brochure:** Two ACP members, Inland Empire Utility Agency and the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County teamed with ACP Executive Director to produce a new, four color, professional/membership brochure. They printed at their own expense, 500 copies for distribution. ACP is getting positive feedback from everyone who obtains and receives one of these brochures. It is being actively used in our current and ongoing membership development efforts.
- **New ACP Members:** While ACP didn't receive new members from the above direct marketing activities it did retain all but one of its existing members in 2008, and acquired a new member in a new membership category. ACP's new member for 2008 was County of San Bernardino, in the newly created membership category of "Associate (Agency & Company)" (Prior to last year, we did not have an "Associate Agency" category). While County of San Bernardino does not have a current composting facility, they joined ACP in order have a window on the California compost industry and to get to know the industry in order to be the highest quality participants they can possibly be as they engage in creating high quality recycled organics markets.

Membership Barriers to Address

Based on the past year's mixed results relative to building membership, and also accounting for the deep economic recession, it is not too surprising that not many people want to sign up for something new. This is especially true if there isn't a clear perception on how their investment will directly and immediately benefit them. As seen in this, and previous annual reports, efforts to build statewide compost markets takes significant focus, time and investment. And while these costs can be borne across the industry, it is typically the few forward thinking, operationally focused and well managed compost enterprises that have enough capital, foresight and collaborative strengths to participate in a compost industry associations. This is generally true for all industry associations, but particularly true for composters, since their markets are local, and looking at Statewide initiatives is generally perceived as out of their area of business focus.

Beyond the poor economy, we engaged in a fearless "self searching" exercise and uncovered what we feel are five main barriers of membership to ACP that we need to address moving forward. These are listed in the following table. In addition, we have begun to articulate the opportunities that we have in directly addressing these barriers.

	Issue	Explanation	Opportunity
1	Biosolids Composter Brand	Has been the fact that the long time, Nor. Cal. green composters have already branded ACP as "So Cal biosolids composters"... as much as we attempted, (partially), to overcome this perspective.	Continue to promote our "feedstock agnostic" values and value activities, as well as our specific activities on behalf of green composters (e.g. Rule 4566)
2	Dues Too High	Dues seem "too high" for the large green composters, compared to the large biosolids composters... different financial structure to those two operations, that goes along with the different agendas between those two populations.	Investigate lowering dues by 1/2 and tripling membership, pick up the agricultural compost producers.
3	Sacramento Connection Weak	ACP leadership somewhat disconnected, with the exception of former Waste Board contacts and projects (stalled due to the state's recent Executive Order)	Develop a strong connection in Sacramento, maybe via OFAC
4	Diverse Associations	Other associations provide a forum and venue for the "green composters in California, CRRA/CORC, CCC (the Edgar Brothers), CRRC, OFAC, USCC members with Matt Cotton	Team with OFAC, and engage the other association composters to participate within ACP initiatives as members.
5	Insufficient Marketing	Not describing what we have to offer.	Improve communicating the benefits and accomplishments of ACP and of being an ACP member

2.3 Compost Legislation & Regulations

ACP is not strictly an industry lobbying association, and many of our larger agency members retain lobbyists, as well as have an ongoing working relationship with State and local regulatory agencies. Nevertheless, ACP members fully acknowledge that regulations can make or break compost markets. The Waste Board, specifically, has been very supportive of ACP's mission to expand compost markets, and, as seen above in this report, has funded projects that ACP has recommended and collaborated with them in achieving results. In addition, ACP has returned the favors-in-kind, and worked not only with the Waste Board on other compost related projects, but has been directly involved with providing testimony and recommendations on other initiatives that affect compost quality and market growth in air, water, solids and mixed media approaches to managing renewable carbon resources. These efforts, many of them ongoing, are briefly outlined in this section.

Air

The two main air pollution control regulations that ACP has been working on and will continue to work on in the coming year is AB 32 and Draft Rule 4566.

- AB 32 – Climate Change Scoping Plan. ACP has been tracking compost's role in GHG mitigation process known as the "AB 32 Scoping Plan". A copy of this plan can be found at ACP's web site "ACP Documents page" as "AB32 Scoping Plan 1008.pdf". ACP provided initial testimony on this plan in August 2008 (letter submitted is on the ACP Documents web site page as "ACP Letter to CARB 081508.pdf"). ACP staff and members continue to track the various committee work and endeavors to provide direct, testimony and recommendations for compost inclusion in its various measures.
- Draft Rule 4566 – Composting Green Waste. ACP has been a member of the San Joaquin Valley United Air Pollution Control Districts (SJVUAPCD) "Composting Green Waste" rule making process as an active participant on their Technical Working Group. Originally this started in 2008 and reached a milestone with the publishing of the "Organic Material Composting and Drying focusing on Greenwaste Compost: Air Emissions Data Review Report – June 2008." This report, along with a letter that ACP sent to the SJVUAPCD is provided on the ACP Documents site as "R4566 EmissionFactorReport.pdf" and "ACP Letter to SJVAPCD 050108.doc," respectively. Based on ACP and other Waste Board and compost producer testimony and recommendations, and the Air Board's own information needs, they engaged in a new project (being carried out this summer). The research protocol was published in June 2009 as the "On-Site Study Protocol and Work Plan" and is also posted on the "ACP Documents Library" page as the "On Site Work Plan.pdf." ACP continues to follow and advise closely on this project. The report is due in the late Fall of 2009.

Water

ACP has worked with, and will continue to work, via its Green Building and Biosecurity initiatives, with California's Water Resource and Regional Water Quality Boards, on two main issues: 1) the Water Efficient Landscapes "model ordinance" process (AB 1881), as well as 2) with Regional Boards (starting with Santa Ana Regional Board) on issues of salt and nutrients in compost. These are briefly described here.

- AB 1881 – Landscape Model Ordinance: A legal mandate from the state level is to re-draft a new Landscape Model Ordinance that can be used as a guide for local county and city agencies to creating water efficient landscapes in new developments. ACP has been actively involved in drafting testimony and recommendations at both the state and local levels (esp. San Diego). The most recent versions of the local “model ordinance” guides, provided by one of our members as well as County of San Diego can be found on the ACP Documents website as “Ordinance Guide IEUA 0109.pdf” and “PR Landscape Design Manual.pdf”. ACP will continue to have input and make recommendations on these and advise our members as to how to be active on this at the local level as part of our “Green Building” initiatives.
- Regional Water Boards – After a few years of work on the Caltrans Compost Specification project, in collaboration with the Waste Board, Caltrans and UC Riverside Extension and UC Cooperative Extension, we were stunned to learn that the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board was banning Caltrans from using compost that was over 2 EC. Our specifications called for 0-10 EC. ACP immediately began holding meetings with the SARWQCB starting in early 2008 and ACP’s Science Advisor/Coordinator, Dr. David Crohn, has been engaged in non-industry invited meetings between the Waste Board, Water Board and Caltrans. An early document of the form and issues in those meetings is contained in the Appendix of this annual report, as “Compost Salt/Nutrient Issue Resolution.” While the process has begun, and there is great rapport between our association and the key Regional Water Board parties involved in this issue, we will be working toward a resolution of these issues in this coming year, as part of both our Green Building and Biosecurity initiatives.

Solids

As discussed above in section 2.1, ACP has worked with the Waste Board (www.ciwmb.ca.gov) on four major compost market expansion projects over as many years. But in addition to these more formal projects, ACP has also been working with the Waste Board and local agencies, independently, on some of their other industry related policy and industry growth issues. The following projects initiated as an outgrowth of state and local policy implementation initiatives outline this work.

- ADC Policy – In March 2008, ACP discussed and crafted a letter of recommendations to the State Waste Board relative to its Alternative Daily cover policy. This 5 page letter, detailing our perspectives and recommendations can be seen on the ACP Documents website as “ACP ADC Organics Rec Ltr 032608.doc”.
- CIWMB Barriers to Facility Siting – ACP Executive Director, Dan Noble, participated in the Waste Board Sponsored workshop, on “Barriers to Facility Siting” in So. California. He offered notes and recommendations directly to the Board and those and the overall workshop notes, can be found on the ACP Documents website as “Siting Workshop Notes 041608.doc” and “Workshop Work Sheet Matrix April 14 2008.doc”, respectively.
- Riverside County Ordinance 779.9 – As part of its ongoing work ACP provided a letter of support for a new Riverside County Ordinance to “Relating to County Solid Waste Facilities and Establishing Fees for organic material used as alternative daily cover (ADC).” The support letter is posted on the ACP Documents website as “ACP Letter to Riverside Co on ADC 051508.doc.”

- CIWMB Organics Toolbox – Prepared by the Waste Board, to offer local governments support in recycling their organic waste streams locally, the new “Organics Toolbox” was put together with continued ACP input. As seen in the “Compost Project Ideas” document, ACP has recommended that this new “tool box” be merged with ACP’s ongoing efforts to provide information to local agencies about organics recycling and the production of more interactive, online, tool box. The most recent version of the Draft Organics Tool Box is posted on the ACP Documents site as “CIWMB Organics Toolbox (2).doc”.

Integrated Media

Increasingly in many environmental regulatory situations, and as is especially evident with organics/compost issues, regulations may best be managed in an integrated fashion, including air, water and solids, taking their impact together. However, since the inception of environmental laws and regulations, there has been the consistent approach of specializing in only one of the media (air, water or solids) at a time in each separate rule. At the state and regional level there are separate Boards that don’t talk to each other, much less work together, in a coordinated fashion. The reason organics cross all media is largely due, in our opinion, to the fact that it is a renewable carbon based resource. The carbohydrate molecules that form much of organic plant material literally have a carbon atom and a water molecule as part of its molecular structure. When these molecules are synthesized in growing plants, powered by photosynthesis, they release O₂ into the atmosphere, and from each carbon atom that is captured from the CO₂ in the atmosphere from which plant material is made and when respired or combusted releases water to the hydrosphere. Organics growth and decomposition, therefore, is already a fully integrated, natural process, independent of how we chose to regulate their growth and decomposition (e.g. the composting processes). Also, plant material is the fundamental resource of the renewable, green economy. All of plant life depends on healthy soil, water and air in order to grow and produce the “five ‘f’s” of a productive green economy, namely food, fiber, feed, fuel and flowers. For this reason, we believe it is critical to start integrating the regulations of the various multi-media that make up the processes of synthesis and decomposition of organic material.

Consequently, ACP members, along with sister associations, especially the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA; www.casaweb.org) and the Waste Board undertook two separate initiatives to begin to close some of the most obvious gaps between the various media regulations, including the policy, regulation and rule making processes of these natural resources and ecosystem services. In this way, this actual, or practical, integration of values, would not be solely left up to the CEQA process on an individual project-by-project basis. Rather, they would be included up front in the regulatory chain of events overall, not just on specific projects. The two approaches that we worked with was CASA’s “Cross Media Checklist” initiative, and the Waste Board sponsored “Organics Life Cycle Assessment” project.

- Cross Media Checklist – ACP Executive Director, Dan Noble, participated in the workgroup and offered recommendations into the document and the process. The finished checklist is posted on the ACP Documents site as “Cross Media Checklist (011309).doc”. The process of getting this checklist used by the various CalEPA Boards (Air, Water and Waste) has been stalled this summer owing to the State budget crisis. We intend to follow up on this in the Fall when work resumes in Sacramento.

- CIWMB Organics Life Cycle Assessment Project – The California Integrated Waste Management Board is working with RTI International, R.W. Beck, Matthew Cotton, and Dr. Sally Brown to perform a lifecycle assessment of organics diversion alternatives in support of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32). The objectives of this project are to quantify greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions from implementation of organic diversion alternatives, and to perform an economic analysis to determine the associated costs and savings of the selected alternatives on a regional and statewide basis. The project is broken up into 15 tasks with three main project parts: (1) life cycle assessment, (2) economic analysis, and (3) GHG tool development and final report. The project can be tracked at the Waste Board website at: <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Climate/Organics/LifeCycle/default.htm>

ACP has been tracking the progress of this project and offering testimony, questions and recommendations as it progresses.

2.4 Compost Education

In addition to the above projects, ACP co-sponsored and/or co-led compost presentations of various types at conferences or independent compost works over the past year and a half. These included the following meetings and venues.

Conferences

- US Composting Council, Feb. 2008, Oakland, CA
- BioCycle Conference, April 2008, and April 2009, San Diego, CA
- California Resource Recycling Association, June 2008, San Francisco, CA

Workshops

Agriculture Compost Specifications and Use

- **Compost Use and Water Conservation in Agriculture**, March 11, 2009, with CIWMB, UC Cooperative Extension and the Mission Resource Conservation District (see brochure “Fallbrook Workshop Brochure - Final.pdf”, in ACP Documents Library on its website, www.healthysoil.org)
- **Understanding Compost Use in Agriculture**, April 15, 2009 with CIWMB, UC Cooperative Extension and the Yolo County Resource Conservation District (see brochure “Yolo County RCD Workshop Brochure - FINAL.pdf”, in ACP Documents Library on its website, www.healthysoil.org)
- **Compost Use in Agriculture on the Central Coast**, April 22, 2009, with CIWMB, UC Cooperative Extension and the Resource Conservation District of Monterey (see brochure “CountyRCD of Monterey Workshop FINAL.pdf”, in ACP Documents Library on its website, www.healthysoil.org)

Caltrans and Local Government Compost Use

- **Developing Solutions and Overcoming Barriers: Stirring Up Old Ideas For A New Future**, City of Rancho Cucamonga, April 7, 2009
- **Compost Use for Municipal Landscapes** City of Burbank, June 18, 2009.

3 APPENDIX

3.1 ACP's Vision, Mission and Values

Our Vision

Complete beneficial reuse of organics residuals in California, with compost playing a central role to build and re-build sustainable healthy soils, keeping California state lands productive, green and biologically diverse for generations to come.

Our Mission

The **Association of Compost Producers** (ACP) is a non-profit association of public and private organizations dedicated to increasing the quality, value and amount of compost being used in California. We do this by promoting activities and regulations that build healthy soil, benefiting people and protecting air, water and soil.

ACP members work and invest together to increase compost markets and improve compost product & manufacturing standards. The association provides education & communication on compost benefits & proper use through support of scientific research & legislation aligned with developing and expanding quality compost markets.

ACP Members Core Values

- Building healthy soil, our customers' needs and product safety drive the quality of our products, our manufacturing processes and soil testing methods, not (solely) regulations
- We support regulations that build healthy soil, benefit people and the environment.
- We never use our markets to *dispose* of excess product inventory
- We never site a composting facility that will not be *welcomed* by the surrounding community
- The odor of our products and facilities will match the expectations of our customers
- We support creating value not merely “lowest cost”
- We assume people are smart enough to understand clear ideas of value. It is our job to inform them with simple, meaningful messages

Healthy Soil Benefits, Characteristics

The benefits of healthy soil, made with compost, are:

- **Healthy Soil Delivers Water Abundance and Productivity**
 - Healthy soil made with compost can conserve up to 30% of water use by itself. When combined with efficient irrigation systems, California-friendly plants, and optimal maintenance; water savings can be as high as 80-90% over traditional landscapes
- **Composted Organics Saves Landfill Space**

- We can return nutrients and organic matter in plant clippings, selected food leftovers, animal manure, and biosolids to the land in the form of compost where they *build healthy soil* in our communities, conserving up to 70% of landfill space for non-recyclable wastes
- **Compost Helps Turn Marginal Soil into Healthy Soil**
 - Marginal or sub-standard, unproductive soils must be re-built either by the developer or the new property owner in order to grow anything *and* conserve water
- **Healthy Soil Makes Cleaner Groundwater Basins**
 - Healthy soil made with proper compost can help purify the water that seeps to the groundwater basin
- **Compost Controls Pests and Weeds**
 - Compost use reduces the need for pesticides and herbicides
- **Healthy Soil Increases Water Purity & Abundance**
 - Healthy soil made with compost is a proven remedy to reduce runoff that can cause surface water pollution and to return more clean rainwater into local aquifers

Healthy soil has the following attributes:

- **Optimum Structure:** An optimum combination of physical inorganic and organic constituents that maximize productivity for each plant species:
 - *Erosion Resistance:* A property of healthy soil is that it absorbs rainfall and runoff because of added organic matter which acts as a sponge
 - *Good Depth:* Optimum top soil depth for growing the desired landscape, crop or native ecosystem
- **Balanced Nutrients:** Proper balance of natural and beneficial compounds, especially beneficial plant nutrients:
 - *Macro Nutrients:* The main plant nutrients include nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, calcium, magnesium, and sulphur. Adding too much of these beneficial nutrients can be toxic to plants or seep below the root zone and contaminate the groundwater
 - *Micro Nutrients:* The remaining essential elements needed by plants include boron, chlorine, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum, and zinc. Again, too much of any of these can be harmful or toxic to plants
 - *Water:* Optimum water content for cultivation of desired plants
- **Non-Toxic:** No excess accumulation of contaminants that might be toxic to plants, animals or people, including but not limited to:
 - *Salt*, in its various forms
 - *Trace metals* above the amount required by plants
 - *Organic compounds* that are unnatural and/or present in toxic amounts
- **Pathogen Free:** Acceptable, low levels of pathogens or harmful microorganisms
- **Diligence:** Healthy soil must be diligently managed to maintain the optimum profile for its use

3.2 ACP Board and Members – 2008 to 2009

	Organization	Contacts	Phone	Email
	Board			
1	Engel & Gray Inc.	Bob Engel	805-925-2771	Bob@ENGELandGRAY.com
2	Kellogg Garden Products	Kathy Kellogg- Johnson	310-809-5708	kathyjohnson@kelloggarden.com
3	Garick Corporation	John Gundlach	909-993-1640	john.gundlach@garick.com
4	Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County	Mike Sullivan	562-699-7411 ext. 2824 562-908-4288	msullivan@lacsdsd.org
5	Inland Empire Utility Agency	Bob Conway Jeff Ziegenbein	ext. 2829 909-993-1981	RConway@lacsdsd.org jziegenbein@ieua.org
	Members			
6	City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation, Solid Resources	Rosalia Rojo	818-834-5111 Cell: (213) 216-3597	rosalia.rojo@lacity.org
7	County of San Bernardino	Erika Ellis	909-386-8968 760-438-3941	eellis@swm.sbcounty.gov
8	Encina Wastewater Authority Orange County Sanitation District	John Jardin	ext 3120	jjardin@encinajpa.com
9	Rainbow Disposal Corporation	Mike Moore	714-593-7450	mmoore@ocsd.com
10	Serrano Creek Soil Amendments	Sue Gordon	714-847-3581	sue@rainbowdisposal.com
11		Matt Rayl	949-768-1008 951-277-2662	mattrayl@hotmail.com
12	Synagro	Lorrie Loder	Ext. 18	lloder@synagro.com

3.3 ACP Actions and Results

Date	Category	Action	Result
Fall '07 – Apr. '09	Project	<u>Agricultural Compost Specification Project</u>	Completed project and Project Report, April 30, 2009.
Feb. '08	Membership	<u>First ever booth</u> at the Annual US Composting Council Conference, Oakland, CA	Visibility & Interest; no new members
	Project Priorities	<u>Annual Retreat</u> : generation of ACP Objectives and project priorities for 2008 into 2009	Detailed Outline and publishing of ACP 2008 Roadmap Priorities (see Appendix)
Mar. '08	Legislation/Regulations	<u>Landscape Model Ordinance</u> : Water Conservation in Landscaping Act of 2006 (AB 1881)	Draft letter, recommendations and testimony input to the AB 1881
	Legislation/Regulations	<u>Tracking Composts Role in Climate Change</u>	Periodic Review lists from ACP member, Paul Ryan
	Markets/Rules	<u>Compost Specifications and Salt</u> : Ongoing working group with Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Caltrans, the Waste Board and ACP Science Advisor, Dr. David Crohn.	Issue Discussion documents drafted, research methods and research initiated as part of the Ag compost project.
	Legislation/Regulations	<u>ADC Policy Recommendations</u> to the Waste Board	Letter drafted and sent
	Project	<u>Compost Utilization of Compost by Local Governments</u>	Initiated in partnership with the Waste Board and UC Riverside Extension
Apr. '08	Regulations/Rules	<u>Recommendations on SJVUAPCD on Draft Rule 4566</u> (Composting Green Waste)	Direct Testimony, and Letter Drafted and sent
	Marketing/Regulations	<u>Barriers/Solutions to Siting Organic Diversion Facilities</u> Workshop	Participation and Notes to the Waste Board
	Marketing	<u>Caltrans Market Expansion Barriers and Successes</u>	Biocycle Presentation
May '08	Regulations/Rules	<u>Riverside County Ordinance 779.9</u> , Relating to County Solid Waste Facilities and Establishing Fees	Letter drafted and sent
	Markets/Regulations	<u>ACP System Outline for Building Sustainable Recycled Organics Markets</u> in California	Position Paper Drafted and Sent to Waste Board
Jun. '08	Marketing	<u>Southern California Organics Marketing Summit</u>	Organized and put on summit with www.utilitybranding.net
	Membership	<u>Meetings with Potential Members</u> : Face to face meetings with 4 potential new members in San Joaquin Valley	Relationships developed; no new SJV members signed up. Signed up San Bernardino County
Jul. '08	Projects	<u>Special ACP Project Update Session</u>	ACP Roadmap Priorities update, July 2008. (see appendix)
Aug. '08	Policy and Regulations	Comments on California Air Resources Board's <u>Climate Change DRAFT Scoping Plan</u>	Public hearings attended, letters drafted and sent, modifications made to the AB 32 Scoping Plan
Sep. '08	Policy and Regulations	<u>Comments on Resolution No. R9-2007-0104</u> .	Letter sent to State Water Resources Control Board
Oct. '08	Markets/Rules	<u>Compost Salt Issues</u> w/ the Santa Ana Reg. Water QCB	Meeting Notes from 10/23/08

	Policy and Regulations	<u>Cross Media Checklist – Moving CalEPA toward “Net Environmental Benefit legislation</u>	Participation in CASA process of developing checklist (10-15-08)
Nov. '08	Compost Research	<u>Compost Water Conservation Proposal</u>	Preliminary Proposal Drafted
Dec. '08	Policy and Regulations	<u>Compost Application within Post-Freeway Complex Fire Burned Area</u>	Co-organized meeting, attended and offered comments and ongoing working relationship with the Santa Ana regional water quality control Board
Jan. '09	Policy and Regulations	<u>LCA CIWMB Project Tracking</u>	Attended hearing online, gave testimony
Feb. '09	Membership	New ACP Brochure	New ACP Brochure
	Project	Proposal for <u>Restoring Fire Ravaged Lands</u>	ACP Science Advisor, Dr. David Crohn
	Projects	<u>ACP Annual Planning Meeting</u>	ACP Retreat and Workshop
Mar. '09	Marketing-Membership	<u>Investigate Association Affiliations with BPA and OFAC?</u>	Introduce two associations, review potential relationship.
	Projects	<u>Ag Compost Project Interviews and Workshops</u>	> 20 interviews & 3 workshops delivered; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fallbrook, CA • Woodside, CA • Salinas, CA
Apr. '09	Projects – Marketing	<u>Biocycle 50th celebration & workshops delivered</u>	Presentations and Face-to-face meetings
	Projects	Completion of <u>Ag Compost Project</u>	>25 page report, + 40 document attachments (sub reports).
May '09	Projects	<u>Local Government Workshop Presentations</u>	Workshops delivered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rancho Cucamonga, CA • Burbank, CA
Jun. '09	Issues Review & Focused Action Plans	<u>Review of CIWMB Organics Toolbox</u> <u>Review of Compost industry Dynamics and Complexity - Simplification of ACP Agenda</u> to two main initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 Project Compost Project Ideas • Resource/Compost Industry Dynamics – 20 Items Outline ACP- Steps - June 2009 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Building & Compost • Biosecurity with Compost

3.4 ACP 2008 Roadmap Priorities 022208

ACP 2008 Goal:

ACP’s 2008 Goal is to pro-actively engage with environmental agencies and industry to promote the use of compost solutions for multi-media environmental management, creating integrated environmental sustainability, this includes Soil, Water & Air, thereby providing actual “net environmental benefits” for California.

Our Roadmap: Objectives, Strategy & Tactics

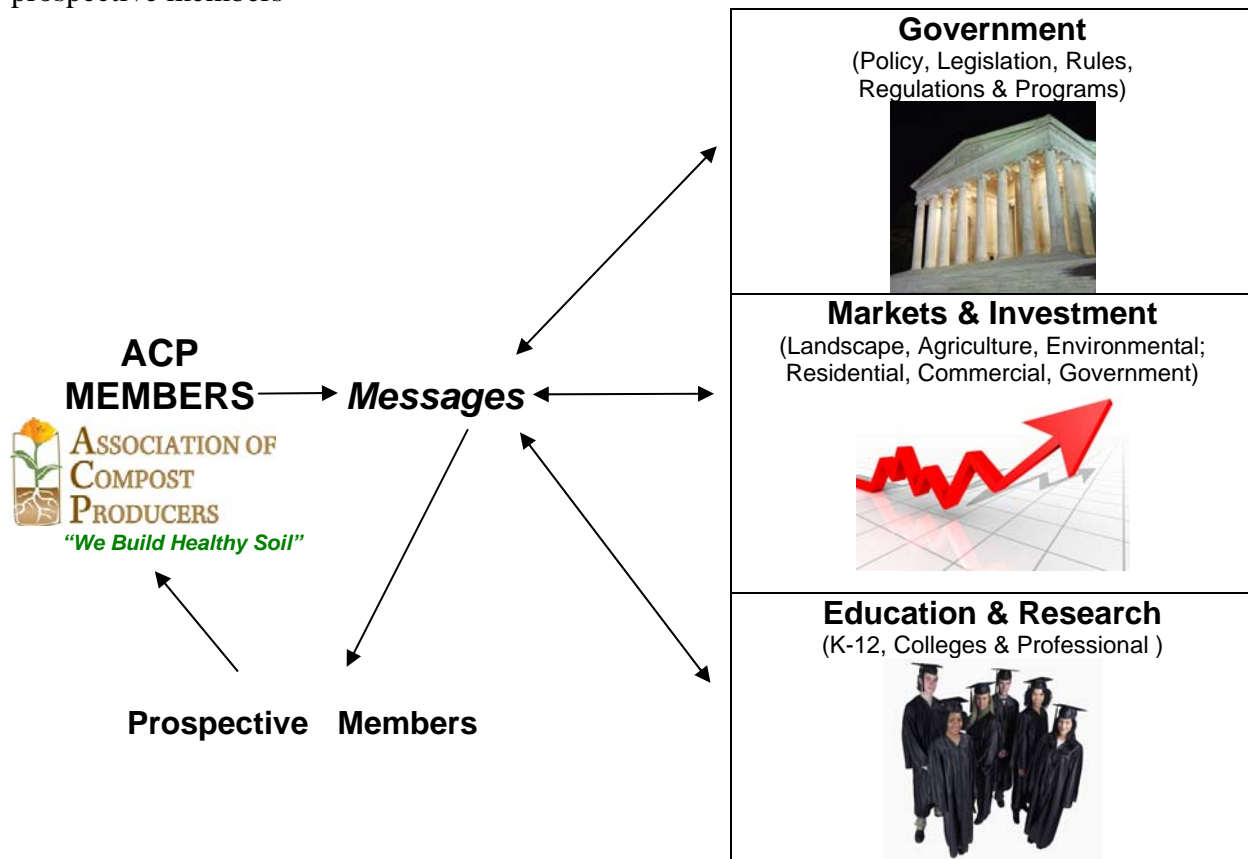
The following is an outline of our Roadmap of four ACP Focus Areas and Objectives, with strategic sub-focus areas and specific tactics in each area. It is based on an *integrated strategy and management model* that initiates and implements key ideas and focused actions in the following four domains:

Government: Policy development, legislation drafting and support, regulations, rules and programs

Markets & Investment: Market development and investment in marketing, manufacturing and channel development in landscape, agriculture and environmental applications, as well as the broad customer segments of residential, commercial, industrial and government (both state and local)

Education & Research: Outreach to K-12, community colleges, universities, including research in partnership with universities and the UC Cooperative Extension systems

Members: Create and deliver messages from members to the various domains as well as to prospective members



Our specific Priorities for 2008 are:

1. **Government** – *Increase effectiveness of legislation and regulations that enhance the quality and expand the quantity and value of compost markets*
 - a. **ARB Scoping Plan:** Actively monitor and participate in the ARB Scoping Plan process for AB32 implementation
 - b. **GHG/GW Calculator:** Ensure that the calculators used to monitor and guide green house gas (GHG) and global warming (GW) policies and programs include and effectively balance quality compost market expansion in the utilization protocols
 - c. **ADC:** Develop specific policies and actions for Alternative Daily Cover in California
 - d. **Local Government:** Tie the above initiatives into the transition of the diversion plans for AB939 and local government “buy back” and market development of compost, while building alliances with local environmental agencies
 - e. **Ongoing Monitoring and Action: Monitor legislative and regulatory activity,** develop a position when necessary, and respond appropriately (e.g. “Wiggins, SB 1016)

2. **Markets** – *Increase and Expand the use of compost in agriculture, by state & local government, by the landscaping industry, and through new Environmentally beneficial applications*
 - a. **Agricultural programs** – Ag Project Implemented and complete tasks 1 through 5
 - b. **Caltrans** – Collaborate on new Caltrans Project with CIWMB
 - c. **Landscaping programs** – Model Ordinance Development and Implementation
 - d. **Stormwater programs** – Get Compost BMPs in CASQA BMP Manual, and promote
 - e. **Disruptive Conditions** – Track disruptive compost market conditions and craft strategy and market tactics to counter these influences

3. **Education & Research** - *Participate pro-actively in events and programs core to building compost markets and ACP membership*
 - a. Work with CIWMB to initiate ongoing program for continuing organics research (CSOM)
 - b. Hold an ACP/SCAP/NWRI Organics Branding Summit – April or May 2008
 - c. Participate in International Compost Awareness Week
 - d. Cal EPA: Stakeholder with CIWMB Organics Life Cycle Assessment Study
 - e. Relationships with related industries (i.e. biomass and wood waste via California Biomass Collaborative <http://biomass.ucdavis.edu>)
 - f. Expand and utilize existing relationships with other Associations (CASQA, CRRA, CASA, etc., in addition to SCAP and NWRI)
 - g. Expand ACP web site with technical information (posted or provide link)

4. **Membership** – *Expand and strengthen the voice of compost producers in California*
 - a. Develop clear messages based on the ACP Brand and Mission and communicate that to the above constituencies and prospective members
 - b. Booth at the US Composting Council 2008 Conference, Oakland, CA
 - c. Sponsorship, and Booth, at BioCycle 2008, San Diego, CA

ACP Working Groups and Assignments

Create ongoing Working Groups, with ACP Board Member leadership, and assignments to address the above, beyond the regional assignments. Make this part of ACP's Local Tool Box and/or web site (<http://finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/ACPLocalToolBox/>)

The following Board and Other Members (and Executive Director) have volunteered to participate in the various working groups (this will be updated continuously as actions occur and the year unfolds):

~ ACP Roadmap Action Accountabilities ~

1. Government

Elements	Accountabilities	Short Term Action Items and Due Dates
<p>ARB Scoping Plan: Actively monitor and participate in the ARB Scoping Plan for AB32 implementation. Specifically, assign people to the following six groups:</p>	<p>Mike Sullivan Paul Ryan Sue Gordon John Gundlach Dan Noble Mike Moore Lorrie Loder</p>	<p>Track and Participate in the following AB32 Groups:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CEC – California Energy Commission - ?? 2. CDFA – Agriculture Industry – Lorrie Loder 3. CCAR – California Climate Action Registry, protocol development for local government – Mike Moore 4. ETAAC – Environmental Technical Action Advisory Council – Dan Noble 5. EJ – Environmental Justice advisory committees and working groups - ?? 6. CAT – Climate Action Team, especially the CIWMB and RWCQBs - ??
<p>GHG/GW Calculator:</p>	<p>Dan Noble Paul Ryan Matt Rayl</p>	<p>Ensure that the calculators used to monitor and guide green house gas and global warming policies and programs include and effectively balance compost market expansion in the utilization protocols.</p>
<p>ADC: Develop specific Policies and Actions for Alternative Daily Cover in California</p>	<p>Mike Sullivan Sue Gordon Paul Ryan Jeff Ziegenbein Bob Engel</p>	<p>Develop and implement three interrelated policy and program initiatives to manage ADC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Require true cost accounting 2. Support investment in reuse facilities 3. Invest in local market development
<p>Local Government: Tie the above initiatives into the transition of the diversion plans for AB939, local government buy back programs, and compost market development</p>	<p>Deirdre Bingman Jim Cleveland Jeff Ziegenbein Lorrie Loder Dan Noble</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue developing tools for tool box, including work on Messages for various constituencies 2. Outline vision and purpose of tool box and current tools available to date by Spring 2008 3. Contract Concepts: Determine relationship of the Local Tool Box to current CIWMB Contract Concept Development

2. Markets

Elements	Accountabilities	Short Term Action Items and Due Dates
Agricultural Programs	Dr. David Crohn Dan Noble	Ag Project Implemented and complete tasks 1 through 3; (See agcompost.webexone.com)
Caltrans	Dan Noble Dr. David Crohn	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with new Caltrans Project with CIWMB 2. Follow-up and publicize with Caltrans Districts 3. Publicize with composters, and other stakeholders (regulators, local governments, etc.) ensure that compost use is increasing
Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance Actively promote the development of local landscape ordinances that require organic matter to improve water holding capacity Write specific steps <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contract Concepts to CIWMB 	Kathy Johnson Liz Hurst Sharon May Karen Baroldi Jeff Ziegenbein Dan Noble	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Develop compost use language for Model Ordinances (by end of May) ii. Get language in local ordinances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • San Diego County (Sharon May) • Orange County (Mike Moore, Deirdre Bingman) • City of LA (Rosalia Rojo) • LA County (Mike Sullivan) • Riverside Co. (Mary Matava) • San Bernardino Co. (Jim Cleveland) • Santa Barbara Co. (Bob Engel) iii. Follow-up and publicize with membership and landscape community
Erosion Control BMPs (and Burned Land Responses) Actively promote the use of compost as the premier erosion control BMP tool.	Deirdre Bingman David Crohn Lorrie Loder Sharon May Dan Noble	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Get Compost BMPs in CASQA BMP Manual 2. Publicize this with individual Water Boards, Counties and Flood Control Districts, and MS4s and Compost producers 3. Work together with the above groups toward completing, evaluating the effectiveness (potential university study or CIWMB project), documenting, and then publicizing demonstration projects related to runoff control.
Disruptive Conditions Track disruptive compost market conditions and craft strategy and market tactics to counter these influences	Dan Noble Paul Ryan Sue Gordon Kathy Johnson	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define what a “disruptive condition” is for the compost industry. 2. Make a list of the practices and companies that are appearing to be “disruptive” to composting.

3. Education & Research

Elements	Accountabilities	Short Term Action Items and Due Dates
Elements	Accountabilities	Short Term Action Items and Due Dates
Participate proactively in events and programs core to building compost markets and ACP membership	Bob Engel Mike Moore Dan Noble Dr. David Crohn Kathy Johnson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Work with Waste Board to initiate ongoing program for ongoing organics research (CSOM). b. ACP/SCAP/NWRI Organics Branding Summit – April 2008 c. International Compost Awareness Week d. Cal EPA - Stakeholder with CIWMB Organics Life Cycle Assessment Study e. Relationships with related industries (biomass and wood waste via California Biomass Collaborative (http://biomass.ucdavis.edu)) f. Expand and utilize existing relationships with other Associations (CASQA, CRRRA, CASA, etc., in addition to SCAP and NWRI) g. Expand ACP web site with technical information (posted or provide link)

4. Membership

Elements	Accountabilities	Short Term Action Items and Due Dates
Expand and strengthen the voice of compost producers in California	Jeff Ziegenbein Bob Engel Dan Noble	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop clear messages based on the ACP Brand and Mission targeted to above constituencies. 2. Booth at the USCC 2008 Conference, Oakland, CA 3. Sponsorship and Booth at BioCycle 2008, San Diego, CA

3.5 Our Roadmap Priorities update July 2008

1. **Prioritize** our activity focus around:
 - **Air - Energy, GHG, VOC:** ARB Scoping Plan, Legislation, Rules and local Air Board air rules
 - **Water:** Conservation Landscape (water quantity) and soil/nutrient management (water quality)
 - **Solids: (Organic ADC):** Be in concert with Waste Board efforts to get organics out of landfills and build sustainable organics market channels (i.e. businesses and markets).
 - **Membership:** Broadcast our work on these initiatives to gain more financial and time support from all composters throughout California
2. **Write "white papers"** or "position papers" (and post them on our site) on each of the key areas of importance that describe ACP position and actions/activities:
 - **Air:** Dan Noble and Paul Ryan
 - **Water Quantity:** Matt Rayl and Kathy Johnson
 - **Water Quality:** Dan Noble and David Crohn (based on work of Dr. Faucette, Filtrexx, et al)
 - **ADC (Organics out of Landfills):** Bob Engel
3. **Network with Lobbyists Ongoing:** Many of our members have and/or work with lobbyists in Sacramento. Make specific contacts with them and use their intelligence and contacts to both get information and provide information to the legislative and executive branches of California government.
4. **Initiate a monthly e-newsletter** (via Constant Contact) from ACP that addresses, via short sweet messages, within each of these above priority areas, as they arise, as kind of an editorial structure, the following periodic topic areas/issues:
 - **State:** Level actions (legislation, market occurrences), hearings, meeting agenda links, deadlines (news, importance and ACP Actions) in the coming month related to:
 - Air Board
 - Water Board
 - Waste Board
 - Others (e.g. US EPA Region 9, CDFA,
 - **Local:** Initiatives of news, importance and ACP Actions
 - Regional Boards & Districts (Air, Water, Caltrans, etc.)
 - County Boards and Staff
 - City Boards and Staff
 - Resource Agency (Water, Sanitation, Solid Waste) Boards and Staff
 - **Market/Sales:** Information, messages, insights, references (web sites, white papers, brochures, classes, conferences, etc.) that will help composters better communicate with their customers in the various markets of:
 - Agricultural Soil Amendments
 - Landscape Soil Amendments
 - bulk (commercial)
 - bagged (retail)
 - Environmental Protection & Restoration Soil Amendments
 - Stormwater management and erosion control
 - Fire/burned lands rehabilitation
 - Bioenergy Production
 - Relation to Aerobic (dry, combustion organics) and Anaerobic (wet, bioconversion organics) bioenergy production markets
 - Converting organics

3.6 Compost Salt/Nutrient Issue Resolution

ISSUE OUTLINE, (Last Update: 8/26/08)

As discussions and exchanges like the one above continue, we are endeavoring to outline what the key issues are with the "compost salt/nutrient problem." They seem to fall into four broad, but interrelated categories of science, state regulations & programs, organic soil amendment industry and communication/collaboration between the various stakeholders (i.e. affected and interested parties). A beginning list of issues includes:

Science

- **Test methods:**
 - EC (electrical conductivity) is measured differently for water, soil and compost. How is this to be resolved?
 - Run off monitoring of composting process vs. finished compost used to amend soils. How are these distinctions to be made in both the testing and the specifications for use as a soil amendment on disturbed vs. native soils?
- **Salt vs. Nutrients:** measuring sodium chloride vs. the other important nutrients (e.g. N, P, K, other organic and inorganic ions, etc.) to establish plant growth. Rather than merely measuring EC, shouldn't we make a distinction between the various constituents that make up the EC?
- **Application/Loading rates of salts and nutrients:** as part of specifications for specific soils being amended and plant growth. What are the proper specifications for this, and who can/should validate them?

Regulations & Programs

- **Authority:**
 - Horizontal: Who has appropriate regulatory authority over this within the Regional Water Quality Control Boards? Surface water discharges? Stormwater? Other?
 - Vertical: Is this a Regional Board or State Level decision? Who has authority to make a decision on this? Who should industry be working with to resolve this issue?
- **Basis:** What is the basis of the decision making (comparison, data types, framework)? What is the process for getting an affirmative decision for using compost to amend soils that is acceptable to the Regional Water Boards?
- **Level Playing Field:** If Stormwater is going to regulate this, how are they going to do it relative to other stormwater BMPs, especially hydroseeding? That is, is it a level regulatory playing field for all the BMPs relative to these issues of concern?

Industry

- **Representation:**
 - Individual or Collective: Who represents the industry on this? Composters (ACP, USCC, individual composters), Waste Generators (e.g. SCAP, CASA, OCSD, other individual entities)?
 - Collaboration: What is the best way to collaborate amongst all the representatives?

- **Authority:** Like the regulators, within large organizations, decision making on watershed vs. solids has been departmentalized. Who has the knowledge within the various representatives to participate and collaborate to come to a decision?

Communication & Collaboration

- **Direct vs. Indirect:** Are the various people involved going to talk to each other one-on-one or in small groups without the other stakeholders, or are we going to collaborate together?
- **Silos & Bridges:** It's become clear that within the Water Boards, Caltrans and some large generators, that people have become specialized into various specialty silos. The goal of this ACP initiative is to build bridges between the various specialty silos, to achieve net environmental benefits:
 - **Silos - Specialties & Authority:** Main ones are wastewater discharges vs. stormwater management (within Regional Boards), Regional Boards vs. State Board (within Water Quality Regulatory authorities), wastewater discharge vs. biosolids (within generating agencies), engineers vs. landscapers (within Caltrans), Water vs. Solids (within CalEPA Water Board and Waste Board authorities), soil vs. solids (within California State agencies), industry vs. academic (between private sector scientists vs. university associated)
 - **Bridges:** What is the best method, process, capability, etc., to build bridges between all these specialty silos both within and between all the various affected and interested parties (stakeholders)? Can we use this as another bridge in the collaborative governance process for creating "net environmental benefits" both within CalEPA and between other California resource agencies and the affected industries, especially compost, landscaping, agriculture and environmental restoration?
- **Education & Brainstorming:** What is the best way to educate each other and ourselves on the various issues that must be addressed? How best can we collaboratively brainstorm to resolve this issue?
- **Decision Making:** What is the process for both getting to and making a final decision on this process?

INVOLVED PARTIES

Within each of the above topic areas, we have had meetings and email discussions between various pairs and groups of individuals on this topic. However, we have not had any all-in-one meetings that even begin to resolve these various issues to anyone's satisfaction. So far, these parties include:

Science

- Dr. Britt Faucette, Filtrexx International, Inc. (Caltrans)
- Dr. David Crohn, UC Riverside, Solid Waste Specialist, UC Cooperative Extension, (Project Scientist on Ag, Caltrans and Fire Lands Restoration, Waste Board Funded Projects)
- Dr. Rufus Chaney, (contacted by Deirdre Bingman, OCSD).
- Frank Shields, Soil Control Lab (STA development committee with USCC, and STA approved lab)

State Regulators & Programs

- Greg Balzer, Landscape Architect & Compost Project Manager, Caltrans
- Greg Gearhart, PE, Storm Water / SWRCB / CalEPA
- Ken Decio, Compost Project Manager (Local Programs), CIWMB/CalEPA
- Danielle Aslam, Compost Project Manager (Caltrans Project), CIWMB/CalEPA
- Kathleen Groody, Compost Project Manager (Ag Project), CIWMB/CalEPA

Industry

- Dan Noble, Executive Director, Association of Compost Producers
- Deirdre Bingman, Biosolids, Orange County Sanitation District
- Jim Colston, Wastewater, Orange County Sanitation District
- Greg Kester, Biosolids Coordinator, California Association of Sanitation Agencies
- John Pastore, Executive Director, Southern California Association of POTW's
- Janet Hartin, UC Riverside Extension (Technical Advisor to Caltrans Projects)
- Bill Baker, UC Riverside Extension, Landscape Industry Consultant (Project Manager on Caltrans, and Ag CIWMB Projects).

3.7 CIWMB Agricultural Compost Specifications - PROJECT OVERVIEW

The objective of this Agricultural Compost Specifications project is to improve and expand compost use in agriculture by providing reliable scientifically-derived information on suitable compost properties to California farmers. The project represents an extension of the ACP Use Index which is under continuing development by technical experts affiliated with University of California Cooperative Extension, and industry experts associated with the Association of Compost Producers (ACP).

Besides stabilized organic matter, composts contain macro-nutrients, micro-nutrients, salts and metals. In addition, some composts may retain decomposition by-products that can be harmful to some crops. The degree to which these constituents are desirable or objectionable will depend on crop and soil characteristics so it is imperative that farmers be given the information they need to identify compost products that will work for their particular operation. Compost specifications will help farmers to avoid using mismatched or poor quality composts, which can depress yields. Bad experiences with compost generate negative publicity and represent a serious obstacle to expanding compost markets so that California organic residues are used beneficially.

WORK TO BE PERFORMED

The work to be performed by a multidisciplinary team directed by representatives of the University of California, Riverside and the ACP. Tasks to be completed include (1) the development of a comprehensive set of compost specifications tailored to each of five California crops identified as being promising compost receptors; (2) incorporation of the newly developed specifications into the existing ACP Compost Index that is currently being developed under separate Waste Board contract; and (3) extension of the newly developed specifications to the agricultural community through workshops, brochures, and continuing education materials.

PROJECT TASK TIMEFRAME

Task	Description	Date
Task 1	Project Team, Literature Search, Work Plan, Crops	Winter/Spring 2007
Task 2	Research Methods, Experiments	Spring 2007/Summer 2008
Task 3	Set Specifications	Fall 2008
Task 4	Implement Use Index	Fall/Winter 2008
Task 5	Beta Test	Fall/Winter 2008
Task 6	Specification Refinement	Winter 2009
Task 7	Online Implementation & Marketing	Spring 2009
Task 8	Conduct Workshops	Spring 2009

CONTACTS

For further information please contact:

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Project Leader	Dr. David Crohn	UC Cooperative Extension	David.Crohn@ucr.edu	951-827-3333
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Technical Advisor	Dan Noble	Association of Compost Producers	Dan@resourcetrends.com	619-303-3694

3.8 Compost Use Workshop for Municipal Landscapes



No-cost Compost Use Workshop
Thursday, June 18, 2009

Compost Use for Municipal Landscapes

Location: Buena Vista Library, 300 North Buena Vista Street, Burbank

Presented by the California Integrated Waste Management Board in partnership with the University of California; Caltrans, the City of Burbank; the City of San Jose; R. Alexander Associates, Inc.; the Association of Compost Producers; & the Department of Water Resources

Learn:

- The Benefits of Compost
- Ensuring Compost Quality
- Implementing Best Management Practices
- Developing Model Ordinances and Purchasing Policies for Compost Use
- Using the Caltrans Compost Specifications
- DWR's Model Landscaping Ordinance

Workshop instructors will include university professionals, researchers, soil scientists, compost industry professionals and others with extensive compost experience. This is your chance to hear from and ask questions of a diverse team of experts.

Workshop Agenda

- 8:30 am Registration
- 9:00 am Introduction -Compost in Context
Steve Uselton, CIWMB
- 9:15 am City of Burbank Organics Recycling
Kreigh Hampel, City of Burbank
- 9:40 am Compost 101
Dr. David Crohn - University of California, Riverside
- 10:25 am Networking Break
- 11:40 am Building a Model for Sustainable Organics Recycling
Mary Matava, Agri-Service
- 11:10 Plant/Soil and Environmental Benefits of Compost Use - Part 1
Ron Alexander, R. Alexander Associates, Inc.
- 12:10 pm Networking Lunch
- 1:10 pm Landscaping/Environmental Applications for Compost, Caltrans Compost Specifications and Creative Specifying for Cost Savings - Part 2
Ron Alexander, R. Alexander Associates, Inc.
- 2:40 pm Compost Use for Landscape and Environmental Enhancement Manual
Janet Hartin, University of California Cooperative Extension
- 3:05 pm Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance
Julie Saare-Edmonds, Office of Water-Use Efficiency, Department of Water Resources

3.9 Annual Report Documents Posted on ACP's Website

The documents referred to in this annual report are posted, in alphabetical order, on the “ACP Initiatives & Results/ACP Document/2008-2009 Annual Report Documents/Document Library” page of ACP’s website (www.healthysoil.org). However, these documents were referenced in the following (non-alphabetical) order in this Report:

1. AgCompost-Final Project Report 051409.doc
2. ACP- Steps - June 2009.xls
3. ACP System Outline to Build Organics Mrkts 050108.doc
4. Compost Project Ideas 052309.doc
5. AB32 Scoping Plan 1008.pdf
6. ACP Letter to CARB 081508.pdf
7. R4566_EmissionFactorReport.pdf
8. ACP Letter to SJVAPCD 050108.doc
9. On Site Work Plan.pdf
10. Ordinance Guide IEUA 0109.pdf
11. PR Landscape Design Manual.pdf
12. ACP ADC Organics Rec Ltr 032608.doc
13. Siting Workshop Notes 041608.doc
14. Workshop Work Sheet Matrix April 14 2008.doc
15. ACP Letter to Riverside Co on ADC 051508.doc
16. CIWMB Organics Toolbox (2).doc
17. Cross Media Checklist (011309).doc
18. Fallbrook Workshop Brochure - Final.pdf
19. Yolo County RCD Workshop Brochure - FINAL.pdf
20. RCD of Monterey Workshop FINAL.pdf