



## BACWA EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTION REQUEST

AGENDA NO.: 4

MEETING DATE: March 21, 2025

**TITLE: Transition of the Bay Area Biosolids Coalition from a Project of Special Benefit to a BACWA Committee**

RECEIPT       DISCUSSION       RESOLUTION       APPROVAL

### RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve the incorporation of the Bay Area Biosolids Coalition, currently a Project of Special Benefit of BACWA, into BACWA as a regular BACWA committee in Fiscal Year 2026.

### SUMMARY

The Bay Area Biosolids to Energy Coalition was founded via a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JEPA) on March 30, 2006. The group's purpose was to allow members to "enter into contracts for the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of one or more regional biosolids facilities." The group rebranded as the Bay Area Biosolids Coalition (BABC) in 2016, and at its peak comprised nineteen public agency members. In FY2020, BACWA took on BABC as a Project of Special Benefit and provided administrative and accounting services for the coalition. BABC membership is open to public agencies, consultants, vendors, and academic institutions.

In recent years, BABC shifted its mission away from planning for a regional biosolids facility, and now supports communications on biosolids land application benefits and safety, information sharing among members, and keeping membership apprised of regulatory developments. BABC also supports research that fills information gaps pertaining to the safety and benefits of biosolids beneficial use. Much of the work in BABC is conducted via a Program Management contract which is currently held by Carollo Engineers.

BACWA itself maintains a Biosolids Committee, whose function is largely information sharing among members. The committee has been on hiatus since approximately 2020, due to lack of interest among its members in participating in two groups that serve a similar function.

Given BABC's shift away from planning for a regional solids processing facility and their membership decreasing to thirteen member agencies in recent years, some BACWA members approached the BABC to consider a potential transition to a BACWA committee. Over time, BACWA and BABC have discussed this possibility. As a committee, BABC would be financially supported by the regular BACWA fee structure and budgeting process, and be open to all BACWA agencies. In December 2024, BABC held a vote and unanimously elected to proceed with this transition.

If BACWA approves this transition, BABC will become a regular BACWA committee with a Steering Committee made up of members that direct committee activities and is responsible for making budgetary requests to the BACWA Board. While the Steering Committee governance structure is yet to be finalized; it will most likely made up of several co-chairs who rotate out of the role on an annual basis.

Consistent with BACWA's contracting policy, and because Carollo Engineers has performed the BABC Program Management task satisfactorily for many years, BACWA will sole source this contract for FY2026 and possibly FY2027 to smooth the transition to the new governance structure. The program management contract will be subject to a competitive solicitation for FY2028.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Beginning in Fiscal Year 2026, the BABC Program Management Contract will be included as a line item in the BACWA budget and be funded via BACWA dues. The BACWA Budget and 5-year plan will be developed to accommodate this new expense. It is anticipated that BACWA dues will increase by 5 percent per year for three years, compared to the usual increase of 2 to 3 percent.


BABC research projects will be funded from the existing BABC reserve fund. After the reserve is spent, BABC will make budget requests for research projects to the BACWA Board. These projects will be funded via Clean Bay Collaborative fees that are part of each BACWA member's annual invoice.

Current BABC members who are public agencies and not BACWA members can continue to participate as outlined in BACWA's Classes of Membership Policy. Vendors and consultants will no longer be paying members of BABC but may participate in committee activities at the committee's discretion.

BACWA will be responsible for supporting the BABC website (bayareabiosolids.com) and will fund hosting services under the communications budget line item, along with bacwa.org and baywise.org.

**ALTERNATIVES**

1. Do not approve the incorporation of BABC as a BACWA committee. This alternative is not recommended as the group will bring value to the community as a program of general benefit.

Approved:   
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Jackie Zipkin, Chair,  
BACWA Executive Board

Date: 03 / 21 / 2025

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### Document History



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**03 / 21 / 2025**

16:31:36 UTC

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COMPLETED

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The document has been completed.