



September 9, 2009

California Climate Action Registry  
523 W. Sixth Street, Suite 428  
Los Angeles, CA 90014

**RE: Organic Waste Digestion Protocol – Request for Public Feedback**

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for opening up the protocol development process for public comment. StormFisher Biogas is a developer of biogas facilities throughout North America that will digest both animal manure and a variety of food processing by-products. The co-digestion protocol is key to generating quality offsets for our projects and we thank you for the time you have taken to putting this document and research together.

Comments on Sections within Protocol

*3.4.1 - Eligible Organic Waste Streams: - This section excludes wastewaters produced at breweries, ethanol plants, pharmaceutical production facilities, and pulp and paper plants.*

A significant amount of material for our biogas facilities in development is sourced from breweries and pharmaceutical production facilities that manage their by-products in lagoons. If this material is excluded from the protocol, this may jeopardize our ability to include this material as it will significantly reduce the amount of revenue generated from these materials and lower the overall economics of the plant. This will result in this material continuing to be disposed of in a less environmentally responsible manner, releasing methane into the atmosphere unabated.

We believe that this material was excluded in the current draft as some of these facilities have their own anaerobic digestion facilities on-site, which may have been used to set the overall performance standard of the industry. Although it is common for very large facilities (especially breweries) to have their own digesters on site, for smaller facilities the economies of scale often do not justify the installation of an anaerobic digestion system. Due to the large amount of materials sourced from these facilities, StormFisher would recommend addressing these facilities on a case-by-case basis to ensure this feedstock can receive the economic benefits of managing it in an environmentally friendly manner.

*6.1.4 - Waste Source Survey Requirements: - This section asks suppliers to fill out an annual survey for the waste that has been collected.*

Given the large players in the waste disposal sector, sourcing materials for our biogas projects is a competitive and challenging task. Since alternative methods of disposal such as landfilling and composting do not require this survey, anaerobic digestion becomes a more onerous and expensive option. It is understandable to require an initial survey, but asking our suppliers to fill out an annual survey based on the waste that is sent to our facilities is another barrier for us to provide an environmentally friendly waste disposal method. Any reductions that can be made to reduce the



reporting requirements (especially for our suppliers) will help in sourcing more material and reducing overall emissions in the waste disposal sector.

### Comments on Specific Issues

#### *Issue 1: Local Food Waste Diversion Mandates and Implications for the Regulatory Test*

StormFisher strongly recommends that this issue be addressed with option 5) 'Local mandates do not impact the regulatory test for eligibility'. As stressed above, competition for feedstock is a very important consideration when designing a biogas facility. Allowing only some jurisdictions to allow for carbon credit creation will create an uneven playing field among developers and will hamper the ability for projects to compete for materials. This eligibility test may also result in new food processing facilities moving only into areas in which they are rewarded for building digestion facilities on-site, and will strongly discourage new biogas project developers to move into regulated areas.

#### *Issue 2: Food Waste Baseline Calculations Using a First Order Decay (FOD) Model – Summing Baseline Emissions Upfront Vs. Distributing Annually*

StormFisher strongly recommends that emission credits be granted upfront. Co-digestion projects are very capital intensive and thus require a significant investment before any emission reductions can be made. Without closely matching cash required with emission credits earned, attracting financing for co-digestion projects will be very difficult and very few projects will move forward.

*For any additional information on StormFisher or questions on any comments, please contact:*

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