



EMWD

Biodiesel Production from Grease Waste

Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) is seeking a FY 2010 budget appropriation of \$450,000 for the Biodiesel Production from Grease Waste Project.

Why produce biodiesel from grease waste?

Within EMWD's service area alone, grease waste totals more than 5,000,000 gallons per year and is primarily disposed of in landfills. This waste material has the potential to produce 120,000 gallons of biodiesel suitable for use in the District's fleet of diesel-powered vehicles and stationary engines.

Grease waste, which is basically restaurant wastewater, is disposed of in landfills at considerable expense and cost to the environment. So in addition to removing a putrid waste product from the environment, producing biodiesel from grease waste results in a relatively environmentally friendly fuel that can be used as an alternative to petroleum diesel fuel.

Local and regional support for this project can be found with the grease trap pumpers and haulers as this project would reduce their transportation costs. Disposing the grease waste in Riverside County landfills is no longer allowed, so truck haulers must now take the waste to San Bernardino County, increasing their dumping fees from three cents per gallon up to twenty cents per gallon. If EMWD is successful with a biodiesel program, the number of miles these trucks have to travel to dispose of the grease waste would drop; reducing the amount of diesel necessary to transport the waste and reducing the greenhouse gas emissions from the trucks.

Why generate biodiesel at a water reclamation facility?

Considerable preliminary treatment is required to separate water and contaminants from the grease using technologies already in use at EMWD's regional water reclamation facilities—screening, decanting and dewatering. The waste streams of water and contaminants are then processed normally at water reclamation facilities and removed.

EMWD Progress to Date:

EMWD is successfully operating a 50 gallon per-day pilot project and is ready to construct a full-scale project.

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Total Project Cost	\$900,000
FY 2010 Federal Funding Request	\$450,000