



**County of San Luis Obispo Public Health
Environmental Health Services Division**

**Ordinance Amending Title 8 Chapter 8.13
Interim Moratorium on the Land
Application of Treated Sewage
Sludge/Biosolids**



MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to protect the health of the community by preventing the transmission of disease and exposure to harmful levels of environmental contaminants through continuous education, innovative state of the art surveillance, and creative mitigation of environmental health hazards.



PROGRAM CATEGORIES

Consumer Protection
Hazardous Materials
Management
Environmental
Protection

Environmental Health Supervisors

**Aaron LaBarre (805) 781-5595;
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- Body Art, Food Protection, Swimming Pools and Spas, and Vector Programs

**Leslie Terry (805) 781-5553;
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- Beach Water Quality, Cross-Connection, Land Use, Small Public Water Systems, Waste Tires, Water Well Programs

**Aaron LaBarre (805) 781-5595;
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- Hazardous Materials (CUPA) Programs



CONSUMER PROTECTION

- Food Program
- Pool Program
- Body Art Program
- Housing and Institutions



[Map Viewer with Food Inspection Results Now Available](#)

View the new mobile friendly interactive food facilities map with inspection results.

[READ MORE](#)



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

- Certified Unified Program Agency
- Lead Abatement
- Site Remediation



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- Recreational Health (Ocean Water Monitoring Program)
- Well Construction
- Land Use
- Cross Connection Control
- Biosolids Land Application Oversight
- Shellfish Surveillance
- Water Systems
- Solid Waste / Liquid Waste
- Stormwater

The purpose for Biosolids Land Application Oversight is to prevent negative impacts to public health and the environment from land applied biosolids



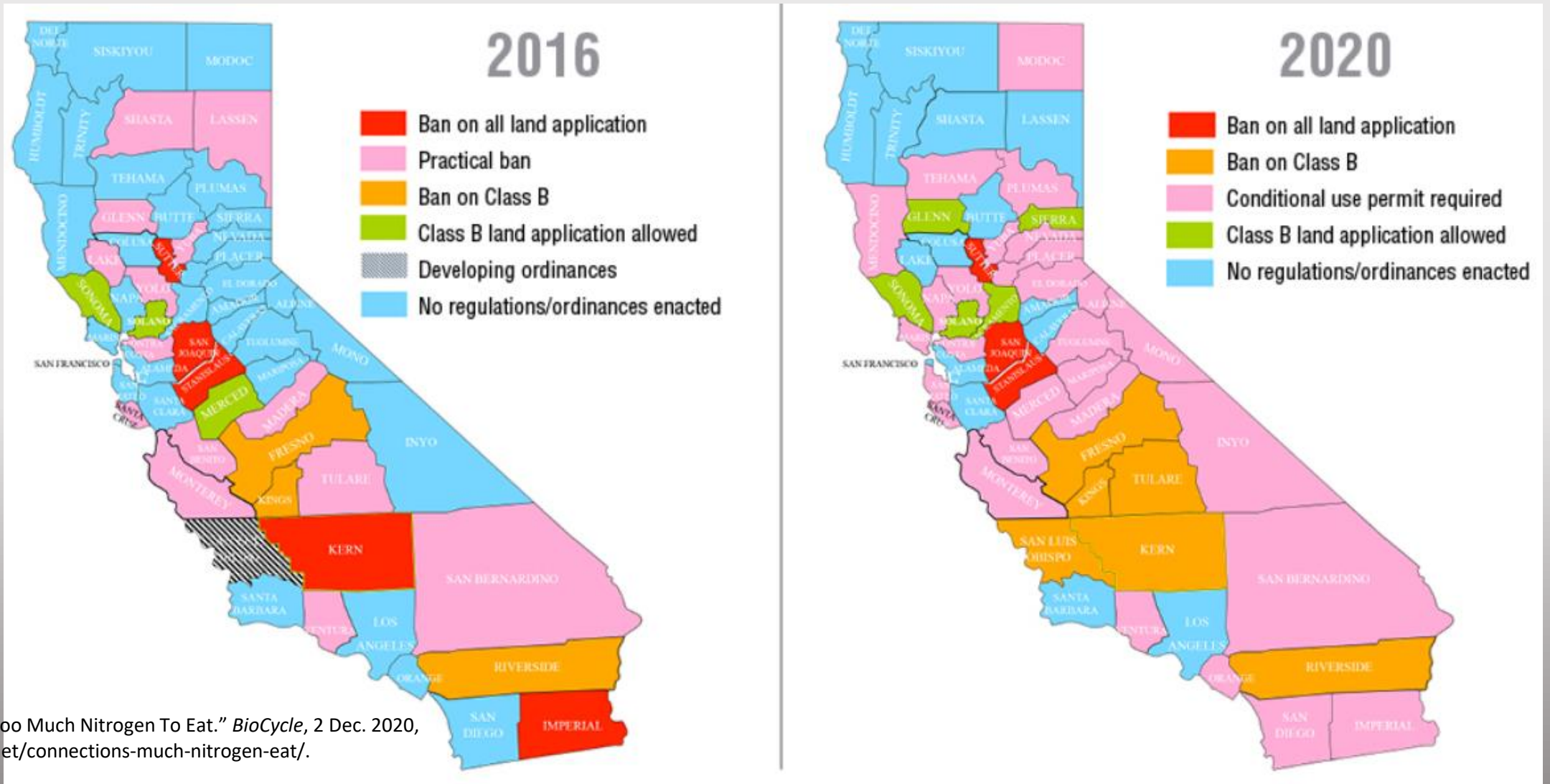
Definition & Classifications of Biosolids

Definition of Biosolids: Nutrient rich organic material resulting from the *treatment* of domestic sewage in a municipal wastewater treatment plant.

Classes of Biosolids: Class B biosolids still contain some pathogens (but less than untreated animal manures) – further reduction of pathogens are achieved by natural forces. Class A biosolids are virtually free of pathogens and includes Exceptional Quality, or EQ, which results in the highest level of treatment. EPA rules allow EQ to be land applied like other commercially available fertilizers.



Biosolids Land Application in CA - County Ordinances



“Connections: Too Much Nitrogen To Eat.” *BioCycle*, 2 Dec. 2020, www.biocycle.net/connections-much-nitrogen-eat/.



CA Biosolids Facts & Figures

- 56% land applied (Class B 25%; Class A 39%)

Alternatives to Land Application:

- 14% used for alternative daily cover or final cover at landfills
- An additional 9% disposed of in landfills
- 4.5% other
- 3% surface disposal (mines/wildfires)
- 3% incinerated
- 1.5% Alternative use (alternative fuel, deep well injection, etc.)

**Total 688,000
dry metric tons**

2014 CASA data

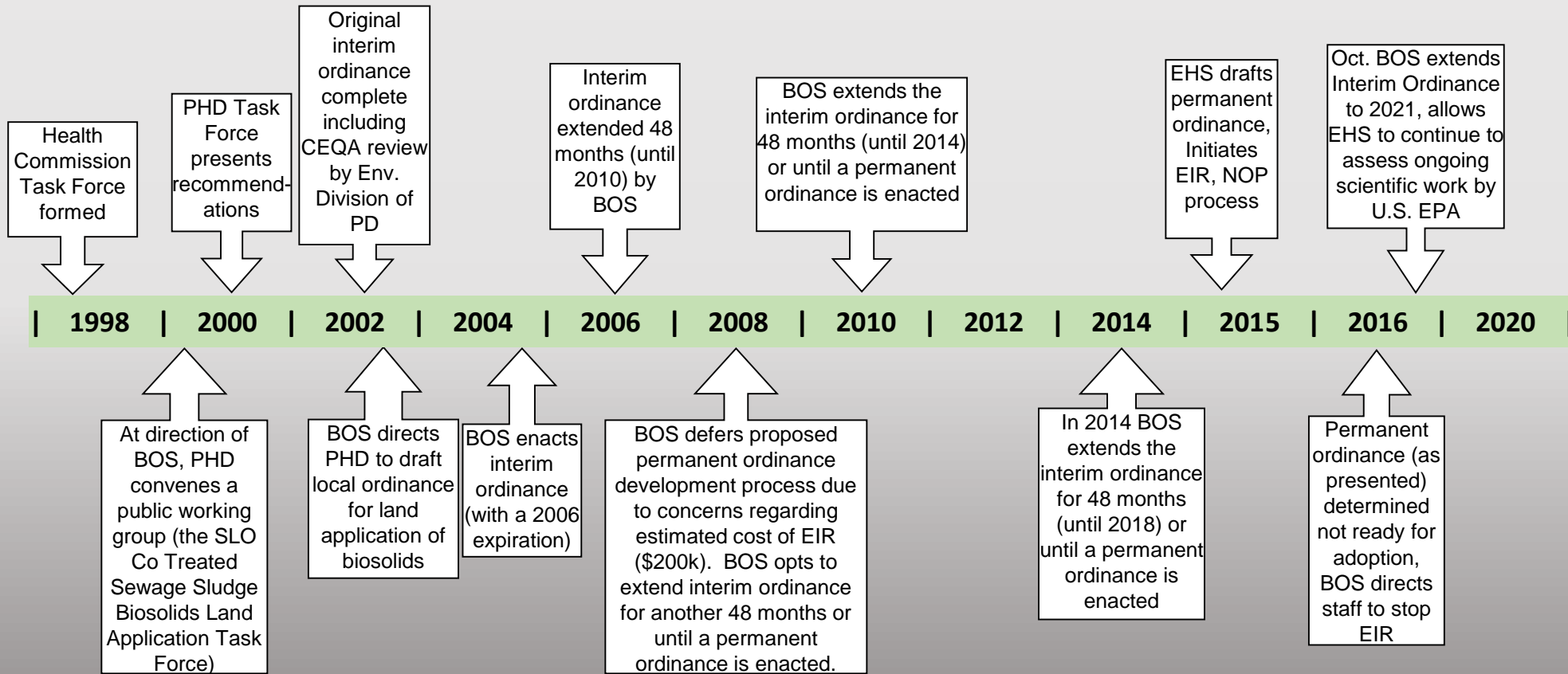


SLO Co. Biosolids Facts & Figures

- SLO Co. generates approx. 12,000 tons annually from about 20 WWTP's
- Most all of the biosolids generated in the County are Class B material
- Approx. 76% of biosolids are composted by facilities outside the County; remaining 24% is landfilled in local facilities



Biosolids Ordinance Timeline



The Current Interim Ordinance

- The currently in place Interim Ordinance (I.O.) was adopted by the Board in 2004
- The I.O. was to be in place until a permanent ordinance was adopted to replace it
- Since I.O. enacted, no land application projects have been submitted to PHD for review and approval (I.O. excludes composted biosolids (EQ) from being regulated)



December 15, 2020 Board of Supervisors

The Public Health Department – Environmental Health Services is recommending the Board:

Amend Section 8.13. of the San Luis Obispo County Code, to extend the expiration date for the Moratorium on the Land Application of Biosolids Ordinance from March 31, 2021 to March 31, 2026, in the absence of earlier enactment of a permanent ordinance. This will provide time for the County to further assess and consider the ongoing scientific work being conducted by the State Water Resources Control Board (“SWRCB”) and the US EPA.



slopublichealth.org/eh

Environmental Health Services

Health Agency | Public Health

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Biosolids Land Application Oversight Information

What is this service?

The purpose for Biosolids Land Application oversight is to prevent negative impacts to public health and the environment from land applied biosolids.

Since 1998, the issue of the land application of biosolids/treated sewage sludge has been the subject of two separate efforts to guide public policy in San Luis Obispo County. Both efforts included public and local agency participation in working groups. In 1998, concern over a proposal to apply biosolids to a ranch to grow alfalfa near San Miguel led the Health Commission to form a task force. The Health Commission Task Force explored the subjects of wastewater treatment practices in San Luis Obispo County, the disposition of locally generated material, biosolids land application issues, federal, state and local regulations and oversight of the practices involved. Since that time, an interim ordinance was developed to maintain historical levels of land application using only A/EQ treated biosolids until a permanent ordinance is drafted. Land application of biosolids requires review and approval by the Environmental Health Services Division.

References

- [San Luis Obispo County Treated Sewage Sludge/Biosolids Land Application Task Force Report and Recommendations, March 12, 2002](#)
- [Hard Facts About the Risks and Benefits of Using Treated Sewage Sludge/Biosolids on Land \(English version\)](#)
- [Verdades Acerca de los Riesgos y Beneficios del uso de las Aguas Residuales Tratadas Lodo/Biosolidos en el Suelo\(En español\)](#)
- [Treated Sewage Sludge/Biosolids and Its Application to Land in San Luis Obispo County\(English version\)](#)
- [Treated Sewage Sludge/Biosolids and Its Application to Land in San Luis Obispo County\(Spanish version\)](#)
- [Prohibitions in the Land Application of Biosolids\(English version\)](#)
- [Prohibitions in the Land Application of Biosolids\(Spanish version\)](#)
- [Ordinance for the Land Application of Biosolids \(2016\)](#)

Reference

[Contact Us](#)

