

Welcome and Opening Remarks

(Greg Nudd, Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer)

- Welcome and thank you. We appreciate your participation in the Air District's Regional Convening on Organics Recovery
- Through your participation, you will help shape the Air District's comprehensive organics recovery strategy being developed to address major challenges associated with diverting organics from landfills including how they are collected, how and where they are processed, and how and where the end products will be used in the Bay Area.
- The Air District Board adopted the multi-pollutant 2017 Clean Air Plan to reduce criteria pollutants, toxic air contaminants and greenhouse gases across multiple economic sectors. The 2017 Plan included a measure for the Air District to develop a broader Methane Strategy that looks at a wide range of methane sources and emissions. Over the past 6 months, the District has hosted several expert panels to address specific topics on the methane strategy.
- A key component of the Methane strategy is the Organics Recovery Strategy, particularly since landfills make up 51% of the District's methane emissions inventory.
- Over the next 1-2 years, the Air District expects to develop a suite of rules, permitting requirements, enforcement practices and guidance on best management practices that will focus on organics recovery. Our intent is to ensure that as more organic materials are diverted from landfills, it is done so in a way that protects public health and reduces greenhouse emissions consistent with our 2017 Clean Air Plan.
- It's also important for us to recognize that compliance with AB 617—the Community Health Protection Program—means that organics diversion should not adversely impact a local disadvantaged community.
- We've invited you today to seek your input on what a comprehensive Organics Recovery Strategy might look like and to learn from you about local or regional issues that we need to consider in developing a strategy, such as: state planning requirements on local governments, land use compatibility, environmental review, regulations, permitting, enforcement, incentives and how we can best provide guidance to local governments and other stakeholders on these issues.
- We recognize that many of you have been working in this field a long time, and your expertise and knowledge can serve a critical role in helping the Air District identify and address the barriers, especially from an air quality perspective, to help the region move towards a more sustainable way to accommodate an increasing number of organics facilities while simultaneously protecting public health and the climate.