

# **Air Quality Permitting for Biomass Facilities**

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## **Policy Issues**

Presented by:


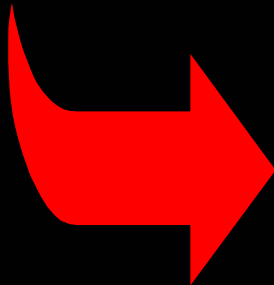
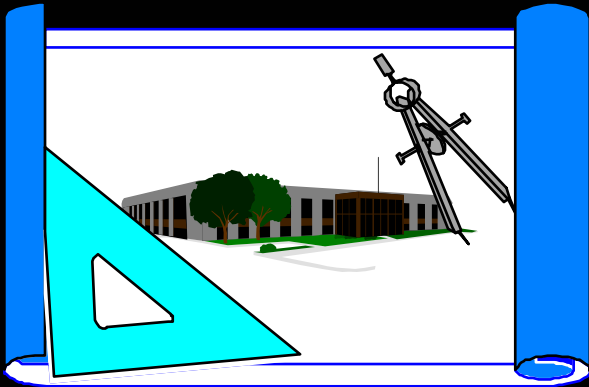
Dave Warner

Permit Services Manager

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District



# The Permitting Process



San Joaquin Valley  
Unified APCD

**Authority to  
Construct**

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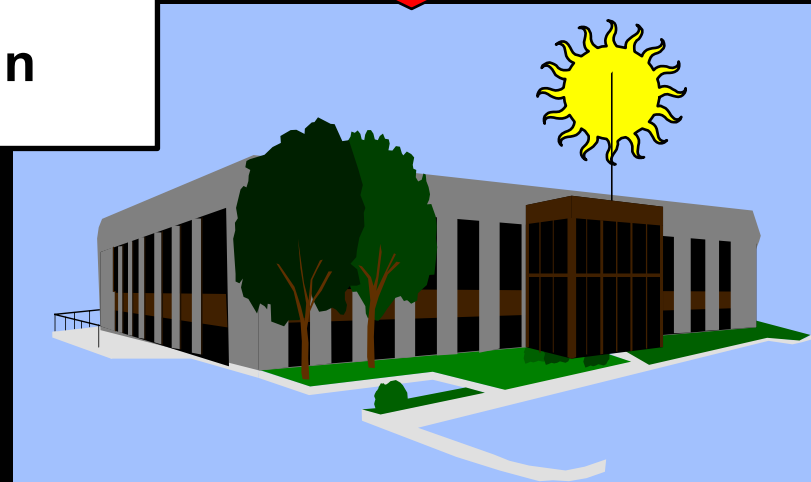
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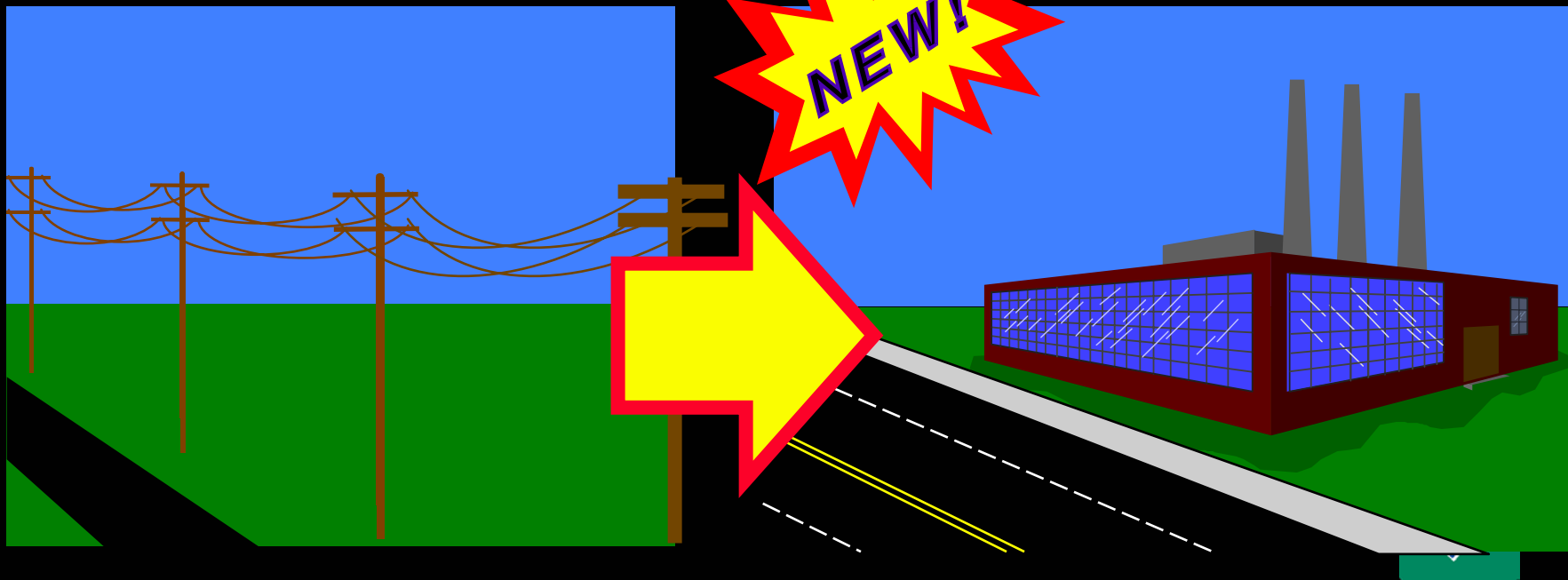
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# New and Modified Source Review (NSR)

- BACT (Best Available Control Technology)
- Emission Offsets



# BACT

- Best Available Control Technology
  - The best available control device or method to minimize emissions from an operation. Examples:
    - scrubbers
    - oxidizers (afterburners)
    - filters
  - Must be achieved in practice, or cost effective
  - Equivalent technologies allowed



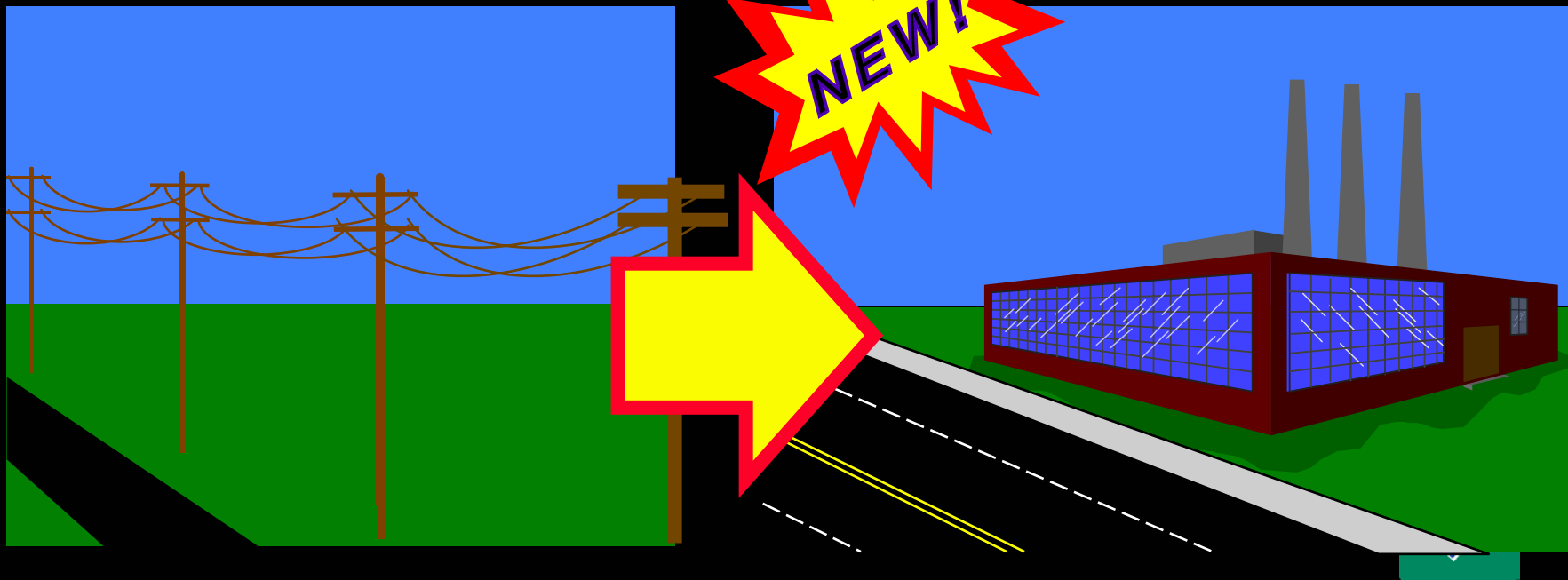
# Policy question:

- **Should legislation and/or regulations require specific technologies, or**
- **Should environmental standards or limits be set (and then industry be allowed to figure out how to meet the standards)?**



# New and Modified Source Review (NSR)

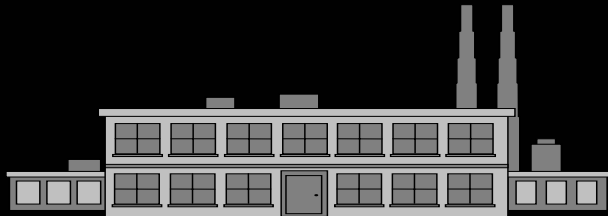
- BACT (Best Available Control Technology)
- Emission Offsets



# Emission Offsets

(mitigation of emission increases)

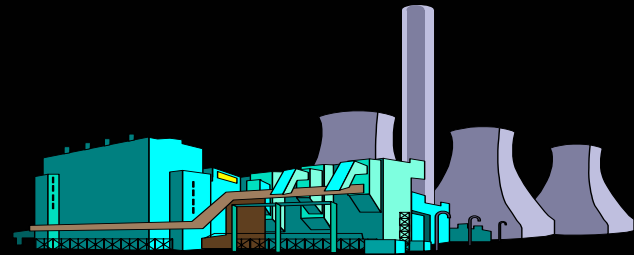
Existing source



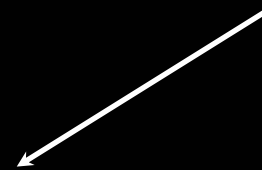
Decrease in  
existing  
emissions



New or modified  
source



New emissions



Result: No  
increase in  
emissions.



# Emission Offsets

## Criteria for approval

- **State and federal law says that emission reductions must be:**
  - Real
  - Enforceable
  - Quantifiable
  - Permanent
  - Surplus of required reductions





# Emission Offsets

- For biomass-burning power plants, emission offsets are contemporaneous:
  - Decrease in ag waste open burning
  - Used to mitigate emissions from power plant



# Emission Offsets

- **Recent Composting Proposal**
  - 100's of tons of emissions per year
  - Mitigate by using ag waste in compost (emissions from open burning will cease)



# SB 705 (Florez)

Bans open burning of ag waste in the San Joaquin Valley:

- June 1, 2005 - for field crops, prunings, and weed abatement.
- June 1, 2007 - for orchard removals.
- June 1, 2010 - for other materials, vineyard removals, and surface harvested prunings.



# Emission Offsets

## Criteria for approval

- **State and federal law says that emission reductions must be:**
  - Real
  - Enforceable
  - Quantifiable
  - Permanent
  - Surplus of required reductions



# Emission Offsets

**Policy question:**

**Can emission reductions caused by reducing ag burning still be considered “surplus of required reductions”?**



# Contact me

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