Economic & Social Aspects of a Biomass Power Facility

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## California & Biomass Power

- First state with large scale development
- Major decline in 1990's
- Resurgence after 2004
- Is there room for more?
  - Coal conversions

### Macro Scale Look at Plant

- 15 MW
- 125,000 Bone dry tons/yr fuel
- \$40 million
- 16 plant jobs, 30 fuel supply jobs

## A Closer Look - Size

- Big enough to be economic
- Small enough to not stress fuel supply
- Big enough to be steam supplier to multiple future businesses
- Small enough to not stress existing infrastructure
  - Transmission, roads, water/sewer

## A Closer Look – Fuel Supply

- Utilize byproducts of county mills (bark, sawdust, shavings, chips)
- Home for harvest residues, precommercial thinnings now burned
  - Assume 50% utilization
- Outlet for local green waste, wood fraction, right-of-way thinning

## A Closer Look - Investment

- \$40 million Project
  - 70% materials and equipment
  - 30% local construction
  - 40 construction jobs over 18 months
    - \$½ million in upfront studies, permitting, design
      - In kind services being provided now

## A Closer Look - Jobs

- 16 permanent jobs at plant
  - 4 Admin/fuel
  - 8 Operations
  - 4 Maintenance
  - 30+ fuel supply jobs
    - 3 chipping/grinding "sides"
      - 9 Jobs each
      - Additional drivers for mill byproducts

A Closer Look – Operations & Maintenance

- \$500,000 Annual property tax
- \$1 Million annual payroll & benefits
- \$1 Million annual local O&M purchases
- \$5 Million annual fuel purchase

#### **Environment – Local**

- Eliminate much slash pile burning/open burning (97% reduction in emissions)
- Potential to lower fire risk around communities
  - Fuel hauled to central site for combustion
    - BACT required for pollution controls
    - Electrostatic precipitator
    - Multiple levels of overfire air
    - Probable selective non catalytic removal (SNCR) for NOx
    - Local ash disposal
    - Water consumption/sewer use

### **Environment – State/Region**

- Displace fossil fuel use for generation
- Help California meet Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS)
- Help California meet AB32 Greenhouse gas reduction goals

#### **Environment - Global**

- Methane to carbon dioxide trade lowers greenhouse gas emissions from fuel
  - 50% Methane from landfilling
  - 10-15% Methane from decomposition
  - 5% from open burning
  - 0% from controlled combustion
- Less need to dig, drill, burn and release stored carbon

## **Environment/Social - Summary**

#### Downsides

- Increase in local traffic
- Steam plume at site
- Local emissions
- Use of other resources
- Upsides
  - Synergies with adjacent golf course
  - Improved forest management
  - Lower fire potential
  - Less open, uncontrolled burning
  - Renewable electricity
  - Negative carbon footprint

### **Green Industrial Park Concept**

- Plant should be viewed as anchor tenant of green industrial park
- Provisions to supply steam/electric to other tenants
- Logical next tenant is small log sawmill
- Provisions to take wastes from other tenants
- Large volume flow of low/no value wood waste
  - Value added manufacturing improves overall economics
- Cutting edge concept renewable combined heat and power

## **Bottom Line**

Done correctly, plant is:

- Complement to local forest industry
- Catalyst to improve forest health, lower fire risk
- Place for community to safely dispose of woody materials
- Local source of green energy
- Improved power quality, reliability
- Minor source of emissions, use of other resources
- Economic engine for community

# Why Ft. Bragg?

- No nearby other markets for local fuel
- Community/local government/industry support
- Good access to PG&E transmission
- Excellent California renewable power prices
- Synergies with park/golf course development

