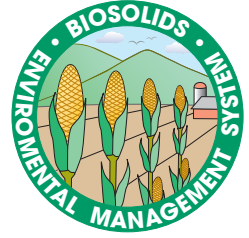


# City of Los Angeles

## Biosolids Fact Sheet: Handling

### Centrifuge Dewatering and Truck Loading Facility



#### How does biosolids dewatering work?

A machine called a centrifuge is used to dewater or remove water from the biosolids. The centrifuge acts like the spin cycle of a washing machine and removes about 95% of the water from the biosolids. The City's main dewatering process is composed of six centrifuges. Each centrifuge is capable of processing about 900 gallons per minute of biosolids. With the addition of cationic polymer, the centrifuges produce biosolids cake with solids content about 32%. Under normal conditions three centrifuges are online. The City has three emergency back-up centrifuges that can process about 450 gallons per minute of biosolids each and produce about 30 to 32% solids.



The main parameters used to control centrifuge operation is the differential speed of the scroll and bowl and the polymer dosage rate. Also the total solids processed, captured, and produced are monitored daily. The final consistency of the biosolids is about 70 percent water and 30 percent solids.

#### What happens to the biosolids after dewatering?

After the dewatering process, the biosolids cake is pumped to the truck loading facility where they are placed in silos and ready to be transported for beneficial use. The truck loading facility consists of eight silos. Each silo has a capacity of 100 tons of biosolids. The truck loading facility has four bays with two silos dedicated to each bay. Each silo is equipped with a live bottom feeder and knife gates. There are four truck scales, three of which are directly in the loading bays and one that is located outside of the facility. Each truck is weighed during the loading process to ensure that the truck is not overloaded. A loaded biosolids truck weighs about 26.2 tons. The City uses truck loading and record keeping software to monitor and track the trucks, drivers, amount of biosolids loaded, silo inventory, and locations where biosolids are being beneficially used. Trucks are washed to remove any biosolids and covered before exiting the truck loading bays. Tickets are generated and given to each driver for every load of biosolids that leaves the treatment plant. Approximately 650 tons of biosolids cake is hauled each day from the Hyperion Treatment Plant.



## Are the biosolids safe to use after being dewatered and loaded into trucks?

Yes! Transformation of the solid matter into biosolids ensures a product that is safe and suitable for agricultural and landscaping purposes. Treatment processes at the wastewater treatment plant are effective in destroying potentially harmful bacteria that may be present in biosolids. Monthly samples are taken at the silos and tested for pathogens to ensure that the biosolids are stable and can be beneficially used. Also, the City of Los Angeles Pretreatment Program ensures metal concentrations are limited to very low levels helping the City produce an Exceptional Quality biosolids (EQ). EQ biosolids meets the Class A pathogen reduction requirements, the most stringent metal limits (pollutant concentrations), and the vector attraction reduction standards specified in the Federal U.S.



Environmental Protection Agency's Part 503 Rule. At the concentrations found in biosolids, some of these trace metals act as micronutrients, which are needed to grow healthy crops. Long term scientific studies over decades have shown that biosolids recycling is both safe and beneficial. Since 1989, the City of Los Angeles has beneficially used its biosolids in an environmentally sound and safe manner.

## Where can I obtain information about the city's biosolids program?

Information about the biosolids program can be obtained by contacting us at 310-648-5877 or visiting our website at: [www.lacity.org/SAN/biosolidsems](http://www.lacity.org/SAN/biosolidsems)

Also if you would like a tour of the treatment plant centrifuge dewatering process and truck loading facility contact us at: 310-648-5363



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