



SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

1155 Market St., 11th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103 • Tel. (415) 554-3155 • Fax (415) 554-3161 • TTY (415) 554.3488



John Mayer
Organic Consumers Association
6771 South Silver Hill Drive
Finland, MN 55603

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GENERAL MANAGER

March 10, 2010

Dear Mr. Mayer,

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) treats all public concerns about our programs very seriously. Your organization in particular has raised concerns over the SFPUC's annual pilot biosolids compost giveaway at our wastewater treatment plants.

Over the past few months, my staff has been in contact with you and members of your organization to provide any information and lab reports that we possess on San Francisco's biosolids and biosolids compost. As a public agency, the SFPUC prides itself on public transparency and responded to each of your multiple document requests within 10 days as required under the San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance. This law is specifically designed to ensure that all members of the public are able to easily access information in government.

During a March 2 media interview with Anna Werner, a KPIX Channel 5 reporter, she referenced an independent lab test on the SFPUC's biosolids compost that showed the presence of dioxins. We were told that this lab test was authorized by the Center for Food Safety. As we had not received a copy of this report we were unable to properly analyze or respond at the time of the interview.

In our mutual interest in the public good and protection of public health, the SFPUC is requesting a copy of the Center for Food Safety lab report on our biosolids compost provided to Ms. Werner. We will analyze the findings to take the appropriate course of action as we reevaluate our biosolids compost giveaways and explore other alternatives for biosolids reuse.

We sincerely hope that since you share our commitment to public transparency, you will promptly respond and provide a copy of this lab report. Thank you for your continued cooperation. We look forward to your response and continuing our dialogues.

Please send a copy of your response and any responsive documents to Tyrone Jue, SFPUC Communications Director. His email address is tjue@sfgwater.org and mailing address is 1155 Market Street, 11th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103.

Sincerely,

Ed Harrington
General Manager
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission