



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUN 10 2010

OFFICE OF  
WATER

Mr. Greg Kester  
Biosolids Program Manager  
California Association of Sanitation Agencies  
1215 K Street, Suite 2290  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. Kester:

Thank you for your letter dated May 18, 2010, regarding beneficial uses of biosolids. In the letter, you requested that we reaffirm the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) support for the appropriate beneficial uses of biosolids in compliance with the land application and public distribution regulations issued by EPA. You indicate CASA's deep concern over the policy implications of a petition made last fall to the City of San Francisco that sought to end their community biosolids compost giveaway program and its effect of creating public perceptions that such biosolids management practices are inappropriate.

EPA continues to support the reuse of treated wastewater and the beneficial use of biosolids as viable options available to communities, but still firmly believes that any decisions regarding those choices are local decisions subject to meeting State regulations in addition to Federal regulations. EPA believes that its regulations at 40 CFR Part 503 are protective of public health and the environment. We are further strengthening the biosolids use and disposal program through our ongoing assessment efforts, undertaken to address the areas of uncertainty raised by the National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academies in 2002.

EPA continues to support biosolids management practices, including land application, incineration, and disposal in municipal solid waste landfills and surface disposal units, when carried out in full compliance with the Part 503 requirements. This would include the public distribution of high quality biosolids products for use as a soil amendment and fertilizer. As we have previously stated, when we receive requests regarding the use of a particular technology or use or disposal option at a particular site, our position will be that it is protective of human health and the environment provided that the technology in question is designed and implemented to comply with the Part 503 requirements. However, in cases where local stakeholders and concerned citizens raise issues not addressed by the Part 503 requirements, it may require taking additional steps that go above and beyond the requirements of the Part 503 rule in order to make a project locally acceptable. In those situations, it may be appropriate to consider incorporating



provisions identified in the **Manual of Good Practice for Biosolids** developed by the National Biosolids Partnership ("[http://biosolids.org/ems\\_main.asp?sectionid=48&pageid=189&pagename=Manual%20of%20Good%20Practice](http://biosolids.org/ems_main.asp?sectionid=48&pageid=189&pagename=Manual%20of%20Good%20Practice)") and to more actively involve the local stakeholder groups and concerned citizens as part of the local project development and implementation in order to better address their issues.

Thank you again for sharing your concerns relative to EPA's support for beneficial uses of biosolids when conducted in compliance with regulations issued by the Agency. If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact Mr. James A. Hanlon, Director, Office of Wastewater Management, at (202) 564-0748.

Sincerely,

Peter S. Silva  
Assistant Administrator