This letter is to affirm that Lystek operations are part of a critical infrastructure service. Water and wastewater services have been identified by the Department of Homeland Security and the California State Public Health Officer as critical infrastructure services whose operations are exempt from the statewide “stay at home” order issued by Governor Newsom on March 19th to mitigate the spread of Covid-19. The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) is a public agency which provides water and wastewater services. Lystek is under contract to support the SFPUC with the provision of wastewater services.

The City of San Francisco’s wastewater treatment plants produce over 200 tons of biosolids every day as a part of the wastewater treatment process. These biosolids are a nutrient rich material that is treated and used as a fertilizer. There is no storage space at the City’s treatment plants for this material and biosolids must be transported daily to sites which use the material. The Lystek Organic Materials Recovery Center is a site where biosolids are transported to be converted into liquid fertilizer. This fertilizer is then distributed to farmers.

Lystek is providing biosolids management services to the SFPUC through a contract. Lystek operations in the service of SFPUC should not be impeded nor should the employees necessary to perform these services be prevented from working. This includes both Lystek operations at the Organic Materials Recovery Center at 1010 Chadbourne Road in Fairfield, and field operations involving the use of the fertilizer produced at the Organic Materials Recovery Center. In addition to water and wastewater services, the Department of Homeland Security and the California State Public Health Officer have declared that “the production of … substances used by the food and agriculture industry, including … fertilizers, minerals, enrichments, and other agricultural production aid” are critical infrastructure services. The ongoing distribution of the fertilizer produced at the Lystek Organic Materials Recovery Center to farmers is critical for maintaining this facility’s operational capacity so that Lystek can continue to support the SFPUC’s wastewater operations. In the course of performing the above mentioned services, all health and safety measures which can be followed to protect the public and the employees of Lystek with regard to Covid-19, including social distancing, should be adhered to.

The continued provision of wastewater treatment services is a critical public service necessary for the health and safety of California. If you have any questions or require additional information, please call Ryan Batjiaka, at either 628-233-4807 or 415-519-3746. If unreachable, please contact Manon Fisher at 415-215-1347.

Thank you,

Ryan Batjiaka
Resource Recovery
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
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OUR MISSION: To provide our customers with high-quality, efficient and reliable water, power and sewer services in a manner that values environmental and community interests and sustains the resources entrusted to our care.