March 23, 2020

This letter is to affirm that Synargo operations in support of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission 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. Synagro 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 as a fertilizer. Synagro and their subcontractor, Wetlands Construction, manages the distribution of biosolids from the treatment plants and their use as a fertilizer.

Synagro is providing biosolids management services to the SFPUC through a contract. Synagro operations in the service of SFPUC should not be impeded nor should the employees necessary to perform these services be prevented from working. The ongoing distribution of the fertilizer is critical for 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 Synagro 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.