

Marsha Geurro suggested I email you re our campaign: Stop the Mayor from Poisoning our Schools and Neighborhoods with Toxic Sludge

From: johnm@organicconsumers.org  
Sent: Tue, Feb 9, 2010 at 3:01 pm  
To: francesca@chezpanissefoundation.org

Ms. Vietor,

I spoke today w/ Marsha Guerrero today about our campaign (which is detailed below). She informed me that Edible Schoolyard cannot engage in advocacy and suggested that I contact you to in Chez Panisse Foundation might sign on to our letter and otherwise offer its support. We are trying to get the below information and sign-on link disseminated as far and wide as possible, are hoping people in attending our rally at City Hall, and would love to have someone from Chez Panisse speak at the event. I hope you will find this a worthy effort to support. My contact info is below.

Thanks and very best regards,

John Mayer

My name is John Mayer. I'm with Organic Consumers Association. We are mounting an effort to stop the City of San Francisco from selling or giving away toxic sewage sludge in the guise of "organic fertilizer." Below is a flyer with links to sign on to our letter to Mayor Gavin Newsom, which is also below. We would greatly appreciate your support in this campaign - by signing the letter, by attending our rally at City Hall on Saturday, March 6, 2010, and by using your resources to encourage others to join with us.

If you have questions, I can be reached at (925) 681-9780. And for more information on this issue, please visit our toxic sludge page (<http://www.organicconsumers.org/sludge.cfm>) and our news Bytes (<http://www.organicconsumers.org/bytes/ob211.htm>).

PLEASE NOTE: If the red text links below to our sign-on letter do not work, please cut and paste this URL into your browser:  
[http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/642/p/dia/action/public/?action\\_KEY=2134](http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/642/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=2134)

Thank you and best regards,

John Mayer



## Tell the Mayor to Stop Poisoning San Francisco!

Please sign on to the Organic Consumers Association's letter asking Mayor Newsom and the city of San Francisco to stop giving away toxic sewage sludge, under the guise of it being "organic fertilizer," to a growing number of backyard, neighborhood, and school gardeners, landscapers, consumers, farmers, students, and area residents.

### **So-called "Biosolids" are actually Toxic Sewage Sludge**

A critical mass of scientific studies indicate that municipal sewage sludge, including San Francisco's, routinely contains thousands of dangerous pathogens, toxic heavy metals, flame retardants, endocrine disruptors, carcinogens, pharmaceutical drugs and other hazardous chemicals coming from residential drains, storm water runoff, hospitals, and industrial plants. The San Francisco Public Utilities' Commission (SFPUC) understands that schools, backyard gardeners and farmers would never knowingly accept hazardous sewage sludge to grow their veggies, flowers, and lawns, so they deliberately trick people into accepting it by misleadingly calling it "organic fertilizer."

### **Tell the Mayor to stop handing out poison to area residents.**

**Click here to add your organization's name to the letter asking Mayor Newsom to end the sale and giveaway of toxic sludge, stop mislabeling toxic sludge as "organic fertilizer," and acknowledge that sewage sludge is actually hazardous waste.**

### **Tell the Mayor to stop poisoning our city!**

Mayor Gavin Newsom City of San Francisco City Hall, Room 200  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlet Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Mayor Newsom,

We the undersigned organizations, speaking on behalf of thousands of backyard, neighborhood, and school gardeners; landscapers, consumers, farmers, students, and area residents, demand that the city of San Francisco stop giving away or selling toxic municipal sewage sludge under the guise of it being "organic fertilizer" or compost.

USDA National Organic Program regulations strictly prohibit the use of sewage sludge on organic farms, ranches, or gardens, making the city's marketing or promotion of its sludge as "organic fertilizer" or compost inherently fraudulent and misleading. Even worse, a critical mass of scientific studies indicate that municipal sewage sludge routinely contains thousands of dangerous pathogens, toxic heavy metals, flame retardants, endocrine disruptors, carcinogens, pharmaceutical drugs and other hazardous chemicals coming from residential drains, storm water runoff, hospitals, and industrial plants.

Given that the city of San Francisco has officially endorsed the "precautionary principle" as a guideline for all city policies and practices, and given that it is impossible to test for the thousands of toxins and pathogens and combinations of toxins and pathogens in sludge, it is therefore totally unacceptable for the city to give away or sell its sewage sludge.

Giving away or selling sewage sludge, under the guise of it being "organic fertilizer" or compost, amounts to a slap in the face for the nation's 50 million organic consumers and farmers, who sincerely believe that the word "organic" is a guarantee of safety and environmental sustainability, and who have worked for decades to protect organic standards and maintain the integrity of the term "organic."

Beyond degrading organic standards, giving away or selling San Francisco's sewage sludge, under any circumstances, even if city officials stop calling it "organic" and use another misleading term like "harmless biosolids," poses an unacceptable risk to public health and the environment and must be stopped.

We look forward to the Mayor's office and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission doing the right thing. Stop selling or giving away toxic sewage sludge. Acknowledge sewage sludge for what it is, hazardous waste, and keep it out of the environment and the food chain. Otherwise we can guarantee you that this controversy will escalate, and that the green reputation of the city and its leaders will be seriously tarnished.

For a Green Future,  
Ronnie Cummins, Organic Consumers Association, & [Your Groups]