April 11, 2018

The Honorable Kevin McCarty
California State Assembly
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0007

RE: Support if Amended AB 2411 (McCarty) – Solid waste: use of compost: planning

Dear Assemblymember McCarty,

On behalf of the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD), I am writing in support of AB 2411 if it is amended to include biosolids compost in its provisions.

AB 2411 would require the Department of Resources and Recycling (CalRecycle) to develop and implement a plan in coordination with the Department of Transportation to use compost for slope stabilization and establishing vegetation along roadways. Compost is a useful and inexpensive tool that can be better utilized statewide to help provide much needed re-vegetation and slope stabilization after a series of devastating wildfires. However, OCSD believes that the bill needs amendments to include the addition of biosolids compost in the development and implementation of a plan.

According to the EPA, composting is a viable beneficial option in biosolids management. It is a proven method for pathogen reduction and results in a product that is easy to handle, store, and use. Biosolids compost provides large quantities of organic matter and nutrients (such as nitrogen and phosphorus) to the soil, improves soil texture, and elevates soil exchange capacity, all characteristics of a good organic fertilizer. Biosolids compost is safe to use making it a good alternative to other bulk and bagged products or commercial fertilizers used for agriculture, horticulture, revegetation, and slope stabilization.

OCSD, a major wastewater service provider in Orange County, produces high-quality biosolids as a result of our wastewater recycling procedures. These biosolids can and should be used to complement compost ingredients to provide for healthy and safe re-vegetation and slope stabilization along roadways. Currently, the use of biosolids compost is prohibited under state law. However, biosolids compost has numerous benefits that should be utilized in the new plan being developed by CalRecycle and the Department of Transportation.
With the aforementioned amendment, OCSD is prepared to support AB 2411 if amended.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Gregory C. Sebourn, PLS
Board Chairman
Orange County Sanitation District