

## BAY AREA CONSUMER WARNING

# Are You Eating Food Fertilized with Toxic Sewage Sludge ?

**Tell the Mayor and City Officials to Stop Spreading Sewage Sludge Under the Guise of *Organic Fertilizer***

### Toxic sludge is good for you?

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, along with municipal governments across the US, want farmers, school, and backyard gardeners to grow their veggies using toxic sludge, spreading the outrageous lie that municipal wastewater sewage plants can somehow magically transform hazardous materials into "organic fertilizer."

### Toxic sludge is poison.

Scientific evidence has confirmed that municipal sewage sludge contains hundreds 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.

Sewage sludge contains everything the sewage treatment plant was able to remove from the sewage—plus every new chemical and pathogen formed in the mad synergy of this chemical soup, including virulent, antibiotic-resistant bacteria created through horizontal gene transfer.

San Francisco public officials have helped the toxic sludge industry score a major victory in the Bay Area, where they've been able to convince hundreds of regional (non-organic) farmers to spread the hazardous material on farm land and pasture, and have actually been able to get city residents to take hundreds of thousands of pounds of toxic sludge and spread it over their backyard and community gardens.

San Francisco is a strategic battleground to stop the sludge industry from poisoning more farms and communities. In 1998 the organic community rose up and banned the use of sewage sludge in organic farming. Now it's time to ban it's use on farms, gardens, lawns, and land in general.

**Sewage sludge is a form of hazardous waste and needs to be contained and isolated as such.**



Turn this leaflet over for grassroots action guidelines.

**C**alifornia proposition 65 (P65) requires the listing of chemicals known to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity. Chemicals known to the SFPUC that are in San Francisco sewage sludge that are also found on the California P65 list include:

MERCURY · MOLYBDENUM · COBALT · ANTIMONY  
CHROMIUM · DIBENZOFURANS · NAPHTHALENE  
1,2-DIBROMO-3-CHLOROPROPANE (DBCP)  
DI (2-ETHYLHEXYL) PHTHALATE (DEHP)  
TCDD EQUIVALENTS (DIOXINS) SUCH AS  
OCTACHLORODIBENZO-P-DIOXINS (OCDD)

# STOP SLUDGE!

## SIGN OUR PETITION!

**Please visit our Sludge Campaign webpage and follow the link to sign the petition to Mayor Newsom:**

**[organicconsumers.org/sludge.cfm](http://organicconsumers.org/sludge.cfm)**

Organizations that have signed onto the letter asking Mayor Newsom to stop spreading toxic sludge on the city include:

Organic Consumers Association · OCA

Consumers Union

Arc Ecology

California Communities Against Toxics

California Food & Justice Coalition

Center for Environmental Health

Center for Food Safety

Center for Health, Environment & Justice

Earth Share California

East Bay Green Tours

Ecology Center

Food First (Institute for Food and Development Policy)

GAIA (Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives)

Green Cafe Network

Help for Sewage Victims

Lessing/Sears Community Garden

Local Harvest

MOMAS (Mothers of Marin Against the Spray)

North Berkeley Harvest

People's Grocery

Planting Justice

Safe Food and Fertilizer

San Francisco Green Party

Teamsters Union

United Sludge-Free Alliance



For more information or to get further involved:  
Organic Consumers Association  
[organicconsumers.org/sludge.cfm](http://organicconsumers.org/sludge.cfm)  
[johnm@organicconsumers.org](mailto:johnm@organicconsumers.org)  
415-251-7940