



Clean Water Summit Partners
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Summit Partners:
- Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA)
- California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA)
- Central Valley Clean Water Association (CVCWA)
- California Water Environment Association (CWEA)
- Southern California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works (SCAP)

August 20, 2012

Mr. Richard DiCerchio
Senior Executive Vice-President, COO
Costco Wholesale Corporation
999 Lake Drive
Issaquah, WA 98027

Subject: Labeling of Non-Flushable Products

Dear Mr. DiCerchio

The undersigned California clean water associations, otherwise referred to as the Clean Water Summit Partners, is a coalition of statewide and regional organizations representing local public agencies engaged in providing clean water services to their communities. Included in the Clean Water Summit Partners are the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA); the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA); the Central Valley Clean Water Association (CVCWA), the Southern California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works (SCAP), whose collective members serve over 90 percent of the sewered population of California, and the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) that includes over 9,000 individual members working in the water quality field within the State of California. Tri-TAC (www.tritac.org) also endorses the Clean Water Summit Partners position.

We wish to thank you for allowing regional representatives led by the City of Kirkland and members of the following referenced national wastewater associations to meet with Costco staff on July 10 to discuss our wastewater industry's concerns over the labeling of products as "flushable". The purpose of this letter is to add the Clean Water Summit Partners support to the efforts of the American Public Works Association (APWA), the Water Environment Federation (WEF) and the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) to address the problems encountered in our publicly owned wastewater collection and treatment systems as a result of disposal of items claiming to be "flushable" that do not rapidly disperse in the sewer system.

The labeling of products as "flushable" creates a mixed message to consumers. We believe that many products carrying this label do not disperse rapidly enough in the sewer system to prevent problems. As the fifth largest retailer in the United States and as a corporation committed to sustainability, Costco is perfectly positioned to "lead by example" (Costco Corporate Sustainability Report, p.11, 2009) by considering our wastewater industry's request to modify packaging of your Kirkland Brand products to remove the term "flushable" and to undertake a simple consumer education campaign to inform customers of the problems associated with flushing any products other than toilet tissue.

We sincerely appreciate Costco's consideration and the time Kim Wailor and her team gave to our wastewater industry's request for collaboration in this effort to solve this problem.

Sincerely,



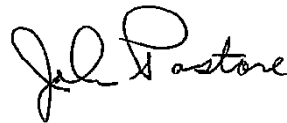
James Kelly, Executive Director
Bay Area Clean Water Agencies



Carrie Mattingly, President
California Water Environment Association



Roberta Larson, Executive Director
California Association of Sanitation Agencies



John Pastore, Executive Director
Southern California Alliance of POTWs



Debbie Webster, Executive Officer
Central Valley Clean Water Association

Cc: Kim Wailor, Costco
Bobbi Wallace, City of Kirkland, WA
Karen Raines, Director of Corporate Sustainability, Costco
Cynthia Finley, Director of Regulatory Affairs, NACWA
Jeff A. Eger, Executive Director, WEF
Peter B. King, Executive Director, APWA
Nick Arhontes, Orange County Sanitation District