



Central Contra Costa Sanitary District

Protecting public health and the environment

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Submitted via: <https://ftcpublic.commentworks.com/ftc/nicepakconsent/>

Subject: Nice-Pak Products – Consent Agreement; File No. 132-3272

Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (District) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed consent agreement between the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and Nice-Pak Products, Inc. regarding inappropriate claims of flushability for wipes products. The District supports the FTC's proposed agreement and recommends that it be finalized without change.

The District is located in the San Francisco Bay Area in Martinez, California, and provides collection and treatment of wastewater for almost a half million residents in central Contra Costa County. With over 1,500 miles of collection system piping and 19 pump stations, the District has experienced substantial operational and maintenance problems due to wipes and other inappropriate products that are flushed into the sewer system. Although many wipes are labeled "flushable," it is our experience that these wipes do not break down quickly in the sewer, causing the clogging of pipes and pumps and contributing to sanitary sewer overflows, which are illegal under the Clean Water Act. The cost and regulatory risk caused by the flushing of wipes is significant, with the expense being borne by our ratepayers.

The requirements for substantiating a claim of flushability outlined in the proposed agreement are appropriate. Wastewater industry professionals – not just the wipes industry – should be involved in determining if evidence supporting a flushability claim is "competent and reliable." The District believes these requirements should apply to all wipes manufacturers and encourages the FTC to investigate other manufacturers marketing wipes as "flushable" even though they do not meet these requirements.

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In addition, we encourage the FTC to consider the problems presented by wipes that contain plastic. Plastics in wastewater can reduce the ability of a utility to recover resources and may cause downstream environmental impacts.

Thank you for addressing inappropriate claims of flushability for wipes and for the opportunity to voice our support. If you wish to discuss the District's comments further, please contact me at (925) 228-9500.

Sincerely,

Roger S. Bailey
General Manager