



# CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of SANITATION AGENCIES

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June 19, 2015

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

Federal Trade Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW.  
Suite CC-5610 (Annex D)  
Washington, DC 20580

**Re: Comments on Nice-Pak Products Consent Agreement: File No. 132-3272**

The California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed consent agreement between the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and Nice-Pak Products, Inc. CASA is a statewide association representing more than 115 municipalities, special districts, and joint powers agencies that provide wastewater collection, treatment, clean energy and water recycling services to millions of Californians. CASA fully supports the proposed agreement and recommends that it be finalized without change.

CASA member agencies are directly impacted by the proliferation of products labeled as “flushable” and have experienced substantial operational and maintenance problems due to wipes and other products that are flushed into the sewer system. Issues caused by many of these products include, but are not limited to, clogs in pipes and pumps, increased operation and maintenance costs associated with addressing flushables in the collection system, debris disposal costs, and the need for additional engineered solutions to address these wipes. Flushable wipes can also cause collection system backups and potentially result in sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) that are beyond the control of the local wastewater agencies, resulting in negative impacts to our environment and local communities. Although many wipes are labeled “flushable,” it is our experience that they do not break down quickly in the sewer, contributing to the clogging of pumps, screens, and other equipment. The frequency of these problems has increased over the past decade, and as the impacts fall on public agencies, the costs associated with flushable wipes are borne by local ratepayers.

CASA believes that the requirements for substantiating a claim of flushability that are outlined in the proposed agreement are appropriate. As professionals who deal with problems associated with whether flushables are safe for sewer systems, whether these products break apart after flushing, and whether these products will truly dissolve or disperse when interacting with water, wastewater industry professionals must be involved in determining if evidence supporting a flushability claim is “competent and reliable” as prescribed in the consent agreement. CASA also believes that these requirements should apply to all wipes manufacturers, and encourages the FTC to investigate other manufacturers that may still be marketing products as “flushable” even though they do not meet these requirements. In addition, we encourage the FTC to consider the problems presented by wipes that contain plastic, since plastics in wastewater can reduce the ability of a utility to recover resources and may cause additional environmental problems.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed consent agreement. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Adam Link at (916) 446-0388 or [alink@casaweb.org](mailto:alink@casaweb.org).

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Adam D. Link, consisting of a single horizontal stroke on the left and a more complex, stylized mark on the right.

Adam D. Link  
CASA Director of Government Affairs