



THE CORPORATION OF DELTA
Office of The Mayor, Lois E. Jackson



January 30, 2018

Dear Delta Resident,

Re: Enviro-Smart Organics Composting Facility

This letter is to provide an update regarding the City of Delta's efforts with respect to the ongoing odour issues from the Enviro-Smart Organics Ltd. (Enviro-Smart) composting facility on 72nd Street. I, along with Delta Council, and Delta staff, take your concerns very seriously and we are pursuing all options available to the City to achieve a resolution of this issue. We appreciate the impact that offensive odours can have on the quality of life for local residents and communities and want to do all we can to ensure this situation is resolved quickly and for the long-term.

At the February 5, 2018 Regular Meeting of Delta Council, staff will present a report that outlines some of the actions already taken by Delta.

One of the key outstanding issues is the requirement for Enviro-Smart to have a Metro Vancouver Air Quality Management Permit. This permit will add new requirements related to the control of odourous emissions from Enviro-Smart. I recently wrote to the Metro Vancouver Board asking for the review process to be expedited. Our expectation, which has been conveyed to Green For Life (the facility owner), is that Metro Vancouver's Air Quality Permit will require implementation of *best available emission control technology* for composting, including retrofits to the Enviro-Smart facility to ensure composting only occurs within fully enclosed buildings with appropriate odour controls.

Under its existing Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Licence, Enviro-Smart is allowed to compost 150,000 tonnes of organic waste each year. A new solid waste licence would be required to increase the annual capacity beyond 150,000 tonnes. Under Metro Vancouver's Solid Waste and Recyclable Materials Bylaw, Delta, as the host community, must approve the issuance of a new solid waste licence. Delta **DID NOT** approve Enviro-Smart's September 2017 application for an amended solid waste licence that would have increased its annual capacity to 200,000 tonnes of organic waste. I, nor Council or staff, have confirmed that no increase in capacity will be considered until an Air Quality Management Permit is issued. Furthermore, we will not consider agreeing to the issuance of a new licence until there has been a consistent, long-term cessation of odour complaints that demonstrates that the facility is capable of being operated to the highest standards.

In an effort to control odours, Enviro-Smart recently cancelled the majority of their commercial food waste contracts and reduced their commercial waste intake by approximately 30,000 tonnes. This provided extra capacity under the current Metro Vancouver licence.

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Subsequently, Enviro-Smart signed a contract with the City of Richmond to accept approximately 22,000 tonnes annually of residential green waste (composed of grass clippings, flower cuttings, hedge trimmings, leaves) beginning February 1, 2018. Given the elimination of commercial food waste, the Richmond contract remains within the 150,000 tonnes of annual capacity permitted at the Enviro-Smart facility under the current Metro Vancouver Licence. Delta was **NOT** advised of the contract between Enviro-Smart and the City of Richmond prior to it being signed as Delta's approval is not required.

The Enviro-Smart facility operates within a complex regulatory regime that includes licences or oversight from Metro Vancouver, the Ministry of Environment and the Provincial Agricultural Land Commission. The composting facility is a permitted use within the agricultural zone and the facility operator has all required licences and authorizations. Within this regulatory regime, the City of Delta has limited control. Nevertheless, Delta Council has endorsed recommendations for:

- A peer review of Enviro-Smart's 2017 annual report by a Professional Agrologist;
- A review all options available to Delta including a review of our Business License and Zoning Authority to ensure odour concerns are addressed;
- A request to have Metro Vancouver audit the facility for Site Licence compliance;
- A request for an expedited Air Quality Management Permit process;
- A letter to Green For Life Environmental Inc. outlining Delta's expectations that best available control technology be implemented as soon as possible; and
- That staff provide updated reports as new information becomes available.

To address the community's concerns and ensure a resolution to the odour issue, Delta will continue to lobby the appropriate authorities to take whatever action they can and will continue to review all options available to the City. We will provide further updates as the review progresses and additional actions are taken to address your concerns.

I fully appreciate your concerns and Delta Council and staff have asked that we do everything within our powers to rectify this situation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding this issue.

Yours truly,



Lois E. Jackson
Mayor

Cc: Delta Council
Karl Preuss, Acting City Manager
Sean McGill, Director of Corporate Services
Steven Lan, Director of Engineering
Mike Brotherston, Manager of Climate Action and Environment