



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

AUG 4 2003

OFFICE OF  
WATER

Mr. Blake Anderson  
General Manager  
Orange County Sanitation District  
P.O. Box 8127  
Fountain Valley, California 92708-8127

Dear Mr. Anderson:

On behalf of the Office of Water at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), I would like to congratulate the Orange County Sanitation District for being the first agency in the National Biosolids Partnership (NBP) to successfully complete an independent third party audit of your environmental management system (EMS) for biosolids operations. This is an important accomplishment which will pave the way for even greater adoption of EMSs by water and wastewater utilities.

Since its inception in 1997, the NBP has worked with wastewater treatment authorities to improve their management of biosolids through the development and implementation of EMSs. Our experience with EMSs in biosolids management, as well as in enterprise-wide management has been very encouraging. We applaud the Orange County Sanitation District for the leadership demonstrated in moving forward with the biosolids EMS and for being recognized as the first to successfully complete a third party audit.

Water infrastructure is critical to the economic future of our Nation. We believe that sound management of that infrastructure, which can be enhanced through the use of state of the art tools like EMSs and asset management, is important to long-term sustainability and the protection of human health and the environment.

Once again, thank you for leadership and for the important milestone the Orange County Sanitation District has reached. The Office of Water looks forward to working with the District and learning from your experience in implementing this important program.

Sincerely,

G. Tracy Mehan, III  
Assistant Administrator

