DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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MANUFACTURERS AND DISTRIBUTORS OF HUMIC ACID PRODUCTS REGARDING ACCEPTABLE PRODUCT CLAIMS FOR HUMIC ACIDS

The Department of Food and Agriculture has received numerous inquiries from humic acid manufacturers and distributors regarding label statements and product claims. We would like to take this opportunity to clarify the acceptable labeling statements for humic acid products.

At this time, the Department only allows one product claim for humic acid: "Humic Acid may aid in the uptake of micronutrients". The statement "NOT A PLANT FOOD INGREDIENT" in all capital letters is also required on the product label. The Department has not received any efficacy data that substantiates additional or expanded product claims for humic acids.

We are aware that several companies have made expanded product claims for humic acids in brochures and advertisements. It is a violation of the Fertilizing Materials Law and Regulations to make any product claim that is not approved on the registered label. Companies that make expanded claims will be subject to enforcement action.

If your company is considering an efficacy study for the purpose of expanding your product label claims for humic acid products, we ask that you submit an experimental protocol to the Department prior to conducting the study. While this is not mandatory, it allows our staff to review the experimental design and resolve any concerns before you undertake the study.

If you have any questions regarding fertilizing material product registration, please call and ask to speak to a fertilizing material registration specialist at the above number.

Sincerely,

Steven D. Wong

Steven D. Wong, Branch Chief Agricultural Commodities and Regulatory Services

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