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RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES OF CALIFORNIA



CA WASTE & RECYCLING ASSOCIATION



RESOURCE RECOVERY COALITION OF CALIFORNIA



environmental services the face of a greener generation



A Public Agency



California Waste Haulers Council



MOJAVE DESERT & MOUNTAIN RECYCLING Integrated Waste Management Joint Powers Authority



Community Environmental Council



May 24, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor  
State of California

The Honorable Toni Atkins  
President pro Tempore  
California State Senate

The Honorable Anthony Rendon  
Speaker of the Assembly  
California State Assembly

The Honorable Nancy Skinner  
Chair, Senate Budget Committee  
California State Senate

The Honorable Philip Ting  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly

**Re: Budget Request – Support for \$200M to CalRecycle for Organic Waste Recycling Infrastructure and \$200M for Local Organic Waste Recycling Assistance**

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write in support of Governor Newsom’s budget proposal of \$55M to CalRecycle for organic waste recycling infrastructure needed to implement SB 1383 (Lara, 2016), but **request the State increase this amount to \$200M. We also support the California State Senate’s proposal to allocate \$200M to cities and counties to develop and implement SB 1383 organic waste recycling programs.**

As California looks to quickly stimulate economic recovery while simultaneously combating climate change, the state needs to invest in the economy and ensure long-term resiliency. Supporting successful implementation of CalRecycle’s recently adopted SB 1383 regulations through infrastructure investment will achieve this goal, as SB 1383 will reduce methane emissions, improve air quality, cut GHGs by 4 million tons annually, and create 4,500 temporary and 11,700 permanent jobs.

Organic waste recycling is a key component of California’s Short-Lived Climate Pollutant (SLCP) Reduction Strategy and the state’s overall climate plan. Under SB 1383, the state must achieve a 75 percent reduction in the amount of organic waste disposed of in landfills by 2025. Implementing these regulations is a massive undertaking which requires significant recycling infrastructure to effectively transform how organic waste is managed. CalRecycle has estimated that the first year of implementation will cost local governments \$400 million and will cost \$20 billion to implement over ten years.

The Senate’s proposed \$200 million allocation will go a long way to help local governments develop and implement the organic waste collection and recycling programs that are vital to achieving the SB 1383 organic waste diversion goals. The first compliance obligations for local

governments begin in early 2022 and local governments are working to develop a comprehensive suite of local collection, enforcement, and funding programs. At the same time, this alone is not sufficient to achieve those objectives. Local assistance funding must be combined with state investment in infrastructure development. CalRecycle estimated that 50 to 100 new organic waste recycling facilities will need to be built to manage and recycle the organic waste expected to be collected under the SB 1383 regulations. This funding will also offer economic relief to families across the state by offsetting the dramatic increase in rates for waste collection and processing services that would otherwise be needed to fund SB 1383 infrastructure. Without this funding, local governments and ratepayers will bear the brunt of these costs in the midst of an economic recovery.

We support the Administration's proposed allocation of \$55 million in financial assistance to spur development of new organic waste infrastructure; however, we strongly support increasing that amount to \$200 million. The \$200 million requested for infrastructure should be disbursed in multiple complementary ways to maximize investment statewide. Even those areas of the state with established organic waste recycling programs will need to improve those programs to meet the requirements of SB 1383. Some of the greatest challenges to those programs are the lengthy and costly permitting processes to upgrade facilities and operations to be in compliance with continuously increasing and tightening regulations from multiple regulatory agencies. We suggest these funds be distributed through CalRecycle's existing Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grant and Loan Programs and that CalRecycle be given broad discretion as to how those funds are used, including for loans, grants, incentive payments, and other financial assistance tools.

We acknowledge and appreciate the Administration's innovative approach to stimulating the development and location of recycling businesses in California through capitalization of a Climate Catalyst Fund. While we are interested in new financing tools, we recognize that it may be underutilized because of its novelty and so suggest that any funds unused after two years be reallocated to CalRecycle's other existing loan and grant programs that have a long history of success.

Finally, we also support the Governor's proposed allocation of \$5 million each to expand community composting opportunities and food waste prevention projects and rescue projects. These are important activities that will help ensure access to local composting opportunities and increase the amount of edible food recovered for community nutrition programs. At the same time, we recognize that more funding may be needed for these programs, especially in the early stages to increase the capacity of edible food recovery operations.

**We respectfully request the Legislature appropriate \$200 million to CalRecycle for Organic Waste Recycling Infrastructure and \$200 million to help assist cities and counties develop and**

**begin implementing SB 1383 requirements.** This funding is an important initial investment to accelerate development of the programs and infrastructure necessary to achieve the state's organic waste recycling goals and to carry out early implementation activities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Helget". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chuck Helget  
Director, Government Affairs, West and Southwest Areas  
Republic Services

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura J. Ferrante". The signature is cursive and includes a small vertical line at the end.

Laura J. Ferrante  
Government Affairs Advocate  
Resource Recovery Coalition of California

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Derek Dolfie". The signature is cursive and stylized.

Derek Dolfie  
Legislative Representative  
League of California Cities

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Kennedy". The signature is cursive and elegant.

John Kennedy  
Legislative Advocate

Rural County Representatives of California



Neil S.R. Edgar  
Executive Director  
California Compost Coalition



Nick Lapis  
Director of Advocacy  
Californians Against Waste



John Kelly Astor  
General Counsel  
California Waste Haulers Council

***David E. Fahrion***

David E. Fahrion  
Chief Executive Officer  
California Waste & Recycling Association



Dan Noble  
Executive Director  
Association of Compost Producers (ACP)

/s/ M. Michael Mohajer

**M. MICHAEL MOHAJER**

Commissioner  
Los Angeles County Solid Waste  
Management Committee/Integrated Waste  
Management Task Force



Catherine Freeman  
California State Association of Counties  
Legislative Representative



Leslie Lukacs  
Executive Director  
Zero Waste Sonoma



Bill Allayaud  
Calif Director of Government Affairs

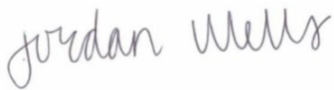
Environmental Working Group



Elly Brown  
Executive Director  
San Diego Food System Alliance

**John Davis**

John Davis  
Administrator  
Mojave Desert and Mountain Recycling Authority



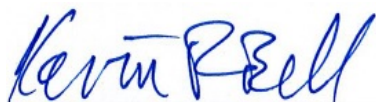
Jordan Wells, Assistant Director  
National Stewardship Action Council



Doug Kobold, Executive Director  
California Product Stewardship Council



Priscilla Quiroz, Legislative Advocate  
Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA)  
California Chapters Legislative Task Force



Kevin Bell, P.E., Deputy Executive Director  
Western Placer Waste Management Authority



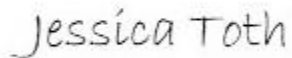
Wendy Sommer, Executive Director  
StopWaste



Ruth Abbe  
President  
Zero Waste USA



Robert C. Ferrante  
Chief Engineer and General Manager  
Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts

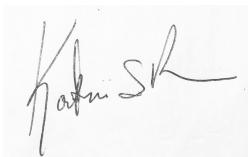


Jessica Toth  
Executive Director  
Solano Center for Environmental Innovation

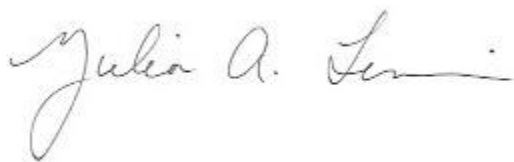


Rhodes Yepsen  
Executive Director  
Biodegradability Products Institute





Kourtnii Brown  
Steering Committee Chair  
California Alliance for Community Composting



Julia Levin  
Executive Director  
Bioenergy Association of California

**Yuka Nagashima**

Yuka Nagashima  
Executive Director,  
Food Shift

**Mike Perez**

Mike Perez  
CEO  
Healthy Prophets LLC



Michael Martinez  
Executive Director  
LA Compost

**Ruth Jordan**

Ruth Jordan  
Founder/Visionary  
Renaissance Solutionz



Ken Etherington  
Executive Director  
Recycle Smart



Kirk Kunihiro  
Lead Composter  
Long Beach Community Compost

***Ruth Arnett Jordan***

Ruth Arnett Jordan  
Founder/Visionary of Renaissance Solutionz  
Renaissance Solutionz

***Keith Schildt***

Keith Schildt  
Chair, SFCA Legislative Policy Committee  
Member, SFCA Board of Directors



Gary Aguinaga

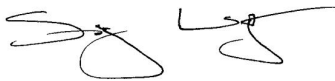
President  
True North Renewable Energy



Tracie Onstad Bills  
Executive Director  
California Resource Recovery Association



Rebecca Burgess  
Executive Director  
Fibershed



Sigrid Wright  
Executive Director  
Community Environmental Council



Rodrigo Gratianne  
Founder  
Recotrack



Alex Oseguera  
Director of Government Affairs (California, Hawaii)

Waste Management

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sashti Balasundaram". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Sashti Balasundaram  
Founder  
WeRadiate

***Paul Relis***

Paul Relis  
Senior Vice President, Director of Environmental Affairs  
CR&R Environmental Services

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe La Mariana". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Joe La Mariana  
Executive Director  
RethinkWaste