



NOSSAMAN LLP | Memorandum

TO: The Honorable Ben Allen, Chair
Senate Environmental Quality Committee

FROM: Nossaman LLP on behalf of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors

DATE: May 31, 2024

RE: **AB 2902 (Wood) Organic waste: reduction regulations: exceptions-SUPPORT**

The County of Monterey is pleased to support Assemblymember Jim Wood's Assembly Bill (AB) 2902. This bill would provide smaller counties more flexibility to develop and implement organic waste diversion and recycling programs that are tailored to meet the needs of their communities.

The landmark organic waste reduction law, SB 1383 (Lara, 2016), requires the state to reduce landfill disposal of organic waste 75% below 2014 levels by 2025. Local governments are working hard to implement SB 1383, but California is not a one-size-fits-all state and there is no single solution to achieving the state's organic waste reduction goals. The state's smallest counties are exempted from certain aspects of SB 1383 through 2026, but they face the greatest financial and practical implementation challenges if their exemptions sunset.

Without changes to increase flexibility and recognize the challenges faced by smaller, rural communities, those jurisdictions will be required to make significant investments resulting in substantial fee increases to residents that are disproportionate to the amount of organic waste diverted.

AB 2902 address this issue facing our smaller and rural local governments. This proposal right-sizes and increases flexibility for smaller and rural local governments to comply with SB 1383 organic waste recycling regulations, facilitates smaller scale community composting programs, and asks CalRecycle to recognize local government efforts to keep forest and agricultural waste out of landfills. It will increase local benefits of edible food recovery programs and encourages education opportunities for landfill owners to reduce the escape of methane emissions.

For these reasons, the County of Monterey pleased to support AB 2982. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the County's Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

Ashley Walker
Nossaman LLP

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CC: Honorable Jim Wood, California State Assembly
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Hon. Dawn Addis, 30th Assembly District
Hon. Anna Caballero, 14th Senate District
Hon. John Laird, 17th Senate District
Hon. Robert Rivas, 29th Assembly District
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