



County of Monterey

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Clerk of the Board
168 West Alisal St. 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901
831 755 5066
cob@co.monterey.ca.us

August 29, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: AB 2902 (Wood) Solid waste: reduction and recycling. – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear

Governor

Newsom:

The County of Monterey requests your signature on Assembly Bill (AB) 2902 (Wood). This bill refines organic waste policy as established by SB 1383.

SB 1383 requires the state to reduce landfill disposal of organic waste 75% below 2014 levels. CalRecycle's existing regulations were designed with urban solid waste collection systems in mind; however, they are sometimes ill-suited to deal with the needs and challenges of lower-population and rural areas and afford very little flexibility for those situations.

AB 2902 does the following:

- Specifies that, for purposes of determining a jurisdiction's organic waste procurement target, a jurisdiction's population does not include the number of residents included in a low population or high elevation waiver granted by CalRecycle.
- Extends CalRecycle's rural exemption until January 1, 2037. Requires CalRecycle to adopt regulations to establish a process to renew the exemption after that date for periods of up to 5 years and requires a jurisdiction that has a rural exemption to undertake specified actions.
- Waives the requirement that lids be of a certain color established in regulations for bear bins and makes deploying bear bins eligible for SB 1383 grants allocated by CalRecycle and establishes bear bins as eligible SB 1383 infrastructure.
- Authorizes CalRecycle, in conjunction with the California Pollution Control Financing Authority and the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank, to provide information to the owners and operators of solid waste facilities about financing that may be available to fund facility improvements and to reduce methane emissions.
- Reduces the frequency of CalRecycle's review of local jurisdiction AB 939 diversion elements from every two years to every four years.
- AB 2902 provides much needed flexibility and will result in cost savings for local governments throughout the state.



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While the existing regulatory framework is readily adaptable to denser, urban communities, it sometimes fails to accommodate for California's regional diversity and provides very little flexibility to deal with the implementation challenges in smaller and rural communities. As a result, the greatest implementation challenges and highest anticipated rate increases will occur in rural and sparsely populated areas of the state. AB 2902 provides CalRecycle and local governments with additional flexibility to manage and divert organic waste, facilitates innovation, and seeks to increase the local benefits of edible food recovery.

For these reasons, the County of Monterey requests your signature on AB 2902. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Church", written in a cursive style.

Glenn Church, Chair
Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Assemblymember Jim Wood, Author
Grant Mack, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office
The Honorable Anna Caballero, 14th Senate District
The Honorable John Laird, 17th Senate District
The Honorable Robert Rivas, 29th Assembly District
The Honorable Dawn Addis, 30th Assembly District
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)