



June 17, 2015

TO: Waste Management Authority Board
FROM: Gary Wolff, Executive Director
BY: Debra Kaufman, Senior Program Manager
SUBJECT: Legislative Positions -- Update for 2015

Background

At the June 11th Programs and Administration (P&A) Committee and Planning and Organization Committee (P&O)/Recycling Board meetings, staff provided an update on the status of legislation and Agency positions for the first year of the 2015/2016 legislative session of the California Legislature. Agency positions endorsed by the Boards prior to June 11th, and the memo presented on June 11th, available at:
<http://www.stopwaste.org/2015/Legislation/Update.pdf>

Discussion

As staff and the committees discussed on June 11th, the Agency's highest legislative priority is passage of AB 901 with amendments to strengthen local governments' ability to access hauler information from disposal facilities. Staff will provide an update at the June 24th WMA meeting on the status of AB 901 and describe opportunities for Board members to assist in advocating for this bill, should they have the opportunity to do so. Attached is a copy of a sample support letter.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Waste Management Authority hear a staff update on AB 901 at the June meeting and share the attached support letter with their jurisdiction's lobbyist and others as appropriate, after the meeting.

Attachment: AB 901 Sample Support letter



StopWaste is the Alameda County Waste Management Authority, the Alameda County Source Reduction and Recycling Board, and the Energy Council operating as one public agency.

June 17, 2015

The Honorable Senator Wieckowski
Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol, Room 2205
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 901 (Gordon/Williams): Disposal Reporting – Support, as planned to be amended

Dear Senator Wieckowski and Committee Members,

I am writing to express support for AB 901 if amended, as planned, to provide local governments with access to hauler information from disposal facilities, related to disposal originating in their geographic jurisdiction, subject to strict confidentiality requirements. The bill also provides CalRecycle with enforcement ability if required recycling, composting and disposal information is not provided by disposal facilities and recycling and composting operations and facilities.

AB 901 will help local governments accurately and fairly collect fees to pay for recycling programs and more accurately assess diversion levels. It will also help the solid waste industry by leveling the playing field so that all haulers and landfills pay the fees that they owe.

AB 901 requires disposal facilities to provide local government entities (those involved with implementing AB 939) and the state with disposal weight tag information (identifying haulers, type and quantity of waste). This information is needed to correct mistakes made with respect to jurisdiction-of-origin of waste, collect applicable disposal and recycling fees, and enforce local franchises.

A serious problem faced by operators of landfills and collection fleets is that there are operators who collect waste in violation of local franchise agreements and local ordinances or codes. The proposed language will facilitate enforcement, which will increase gross revenue for franchised operators, and reduce the need for rate increases. This is to the advantage of local governments, rate payers and the majority of landfills and haulers who are doing the right thing.

This information will also aid local governments and the state in more accurately determining recycling rates and gain knowledge about types and quantities of waste being disposed so that recycling programs can be tailored to address those materials.

Member Agencies:

- Alameda County
- Alameda
- Albany
- Berkeley
- Dublin
- Emeryville
- Fremont
- Hayward
- Livermore
- Newark
- Oakland
- Piedmont
- Pleasanton
- San Leandro
- Union City
- Castro Valley Sanitary District
- Oro Loma Sanitary District

ATTACHMENT A

This bill is a win/win for local governments and the hauling/recycling community and the state. We urge your "yes" vote on AB 901 which will lead to improved revenue collection for recycling programs around the state, and a level playing field for haulers and landfills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "GW".

Gary Wolff
Executive Director

cc: Senate EQ members