



Date: October 23, 2019

TO: Waste Management Authority Board

FROM: Jeff Becerra, Communications Manager

SUBJECT: 2019 Legislative Wrap Up

SUMMARY:

The first year of a two-year legislative session ended on October 13, with Governor Newsom signing 870 bills into law. A list of bills notable to StopWaste and their final status is included below. At the October 23 meeting, staff, along with Jason Schmelzer and Priscilla Quiroz from our contract lobbyist Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange, will provide an overview of legislative highlights and what to expect for 2020.

DISCUSSION:

StopWaste’s legislative priorities for 2019 included emphasizing plastic pollution prevention, contamination, climate change, organics to landfill and unsustainable consumption. In addition to representation from our lobbyist, we work closely with partner organizations to support or oppose the bills that have the greatest potential to impact our mission, either positively or negatively.

This legislative session was the first for Governor Newsom. Although the widely publicized California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act did not pass, a number of beneficial laws were passed and signed into law.

Bills signed by the Governor

- **AB 54 (Ting) – California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act:** Short-term bottle bill fix that provides \$5 million in grants for mobile recycling pilots and relieves grocery stores from compliance fees until March, 2020.
- **AB 187 (Garcia)—Used Mattress Recovery and Recycling Act:** Implements a series of changes to the Used Mattress Recovery and Recycling Act in response to the legislative audit conducted last year, including requiring the organization to include additional information and goals, budget, and

annual reports, and require the advisory committee to prepare written recommendations for the organization.

- **AB 614 (Eggman)—“Farm to Food Bank” Tax Credit:** Expands the types of foods eligible for the "Farm to Food Bank" tax credit from only produce to items like rice, beans, nuts, meat, and dairy.
- **AB 619 (Chiu)—Bring-Your-Own Reusable Food and Beverage Containers:** Allows use of reusable food and beverage containers at restaurants and temporary events.
- **AB 729 (Chu)—Carpet Recycling:** Requires a carpet stewardship organization to include a description of the process by which it will transfer assessment funds to a successor organization in the event such an action becomes necessary, and requires the organization to transfer those funds to a successor with an approved plan.
- **AB 815 (Aguilar-Curry) – Dual-Stream Recycling:** Mostly symbolic, encourages communities to switch to dual stream recycling to reduce contamination.
- **AB 827 (McCarty)—Customer Access to Recycling:** Businesses that are currently required to have recycling (AB 341) or organics (AB 1826) service, including most food service establishments, will now need to provide recycling/composting bins to their customers.
- **AB 1583 (Eggman) — The California Recycling Market Development Act:** Convenes a Statewide Commission on Recycling Markets and Curbside Programs by July 2020. Extends the Recycling Market Development Revolving Loan Program to 2031. Eliminates the requirement to include the “chasing arrows” symbol on plastic products.
- **AB 1162 (Kalra)—Single Use Hotel Toiletries:** Prohibits the distribution of single use toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, lotion) at hotels. By January 2023 for 50+ room establishments; by 2014 for all others.
- **SB 726 (Caballero)—Household Hazardous Waste Reuse:** Allows local Household Hazardous Waste programs to hold materials on site for reuse by customers.

Bills that did not pass or were vetoed by the Governor

- **AB 1080 (Gonzalez, Freidman, Ting) & SB 54 (Allen, Wiener, Skinner, Stern) — The California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act:** Would develop a comprehensive framework for reducing plastic pollution and reforming wasteful product packaging. These bills would require all single-use packaging and certain food (plates, bowls, cups, stirrers, straws) be recyclable or compostable by 2030. It would also require a 75% reduction statewide by producers of waste generated from single-use packaging and certain food ware through source reduction, recycling, or composting by 2030.
- **AB 792 (Ting) – Mandatory Recycled Content in Plastic Bottles:** In order to encourage efficient use of recyclable plastics, AB 792 would set a series of graduated minimum recycled content levels for

all plastic beverage containers, starting at 25% in 2021 and getting to 50% by 2030. AB 792 is similar to last year's SB 168 (Wieckowski).

- **SB 724 (Stern, Glazer)—Bottle Bill Buy-Back Centers:** Similar to last year's SB 452 (Glazer), SB 724 would increase funding to recycling centers in response to the dramatic decline in recycling facilities in recent years.
- **AB 1163 (Eggman)—Right to Repair:** Right to Repair is a nationwide movement aiming to extend the life of electronics by making it easier for people and businesses to make repairs. This bill would extend California's existing warranty laws by adding individual owners and regulated independent service dealers to the entities eligible to receive functional parts and service literature from manufacturers for electronics and appliances.

At the November Waste Management Authority meeting, staff will share and discuss with the Board a proposed list of legislative priorities for the 2020 session.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information only.