



November 13, 2015

TO: Waste Management Authority Board

FROM: Gary Wolff, Executive Director
Wendy Sommer, Deputy Executive Director

BY: Debra Kaufman, Senior Program Manager
Wes Sullens, Program Manager

SUBJECT: Legislative Priorities for 2016

Background

On November 12, 2015, the Programs and Administration Committee and the Planning and Organization Committee/Recycling Board heard a presentation on proposed legislative priorities for 2016.

The report submitted to the P&A and the P&O/RB can be found at:
<http://stopwaste.org/Leg/Priorities/2016.pdf>

Committee Action

The P&A Committee and the P&O Committee/RB reviewed and recommended the proposed priorities of extended producer responsibility and organics, including the investigation of a possible additional priority related to a landfill weighmaster requirement, depending on the outcome of staff research on partners and expressed need. The P&A Committee also decided to keep open the possibility of adding other priorities if the need arises during the year. The RB/P&O Committee voted to add an additional priority of Environmentally Preferable Purchasing.

The P&A voted 9-0 in favor of making organics, extender producer responsibility, and any other issue that is deemed necessary as our legislative priorities for 2016. The Recycling Board/ P&O voted 10-0 in favor of these priorities plus an additional priority of environmentally preferable purchasing.

At the P&A meeting, Board member Kalb inquired about the status of three bills that are expected to become two year bills and staff agreed to include information on that in this memo, which follows.

AB 1159 (Gordon): This was the primary Extended Producer Responsibility bill for the year related to sharps and batteries and the author held it in the Assembly Appropriations committee and made it a two year bill after it passed the Assembly Natural Resources and the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committees.

AB 45 (Mullin). This bill prioritized funding for door-to-door collection of household hazardous waste and had no producer responsibility aspect. Our Agency, along with many other local governments opposed this bill. The bill got held in the Assembly Appropriations committee after passing out of the Assembly Local Government and Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committees.

AB 1063 (Williams). This bill provided an additional funding mechanism for CalRecycle via an increased landfill tip fee and a generator fee. The bill was held in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee at the request of the Author after having passed the Assembly.

Staff will monitor these bills and will include information on them in the April update.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the WMA Board review the linked memo and confirm the Board recommended priorities including extended producer responsibility, environmentally preferable purchasing, and organics with the possibility of adding another priority as needed, for the legislative year of 2016.