

April 5, 2021



E-TRANSMITTAL/ U.S. REGULAR MAIL

The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th District
Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 2205
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SB 619 (Laird) Organic Waste: Reduction Regulations
LETTER OF SUPPORT IN CONCEPT *(As Amended 3/10/21)*

Dear Senator Allen:

The City of San Pablo would like to express our **Support in Concept** for SB 619 (Laird), which would help local governments implement SB 1383 (Lara, 2016) and the subsequent Cal Recycle regulations.

Over the past several years, Cal Recycle has been developing regulations to implement statewide organic waste diversion goals set forth in SB 1383 by Senator Lara in 2016. As you know, SB 619 proposes to seek help to local governments on the implementation of SB 1383 by allowing for additional time and flexibility to comply with SB 1383 regulations.

Currently, local governments have until January 1, 2022, to implement the requirements outlined in the SB 1383 regulations. Although these current regulations had been in development for several years, they were not finalized until November 2020, giving local governments only thirteen (13) months to fully implement various facets of the regulations in effect.

In addition, the outbreak of COVID-19 shortly after these SB 1383 regulations were finalized, further complicates the situation as City resources and attention were temporarily shifted to focus resources and time on the COVID-19 public health crisis, especially on local communities.

The City of San Pablo is on track to meet most of the requirements by January 1, 2022 (e.g. ordinance update, procurement policy). However, this timeline will be difficult to meet if Cal Recycle deems a franchise agreement amendment necessary. In addition, getting the customers in compliance after January 1, 2022 will take tremendous effort and time. Not to mention, the fiscal impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have impacted many of our City operations and services since March 2020.

Lastly, given that these current regulations do not have a source of state funding to implement, the burden of paying for the costs associated with implementing the program will fall to our local residents and our businesses. With all of the economic hardships facing cities, residents,

and businesses due to COVID-19, more time and flexibility implementing these current regulations will be needed to be mitigated by future recycling and solid waste rate increases community-wide.

Cities, like ours, are working diligently to implement SB 1383 requirements, and are committed to fully implementing the program. The City of San Pablo belongs to the West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Joint Powers Authority (Recyclemore JPA), in partnership with the cities of El Cerrito, Hercules, Pinole and Richmond, who adhere to all State regulatory solid waste, diversion and recycling requirements. However, given the reasons outlined above, additional time and flexibility is needed in order to avoid these serious challenges faced by all local cities tasked with ongoing and unfunded state-wide regulatory compliance requirements.

We acknowledge that this state legislation is a work in progress. However, local cities, like San Pablo, want to see this proposed legislation move forward to continue the discussions with State legislators and all stakeholders to see what solutions can be reached. We applaud Senator Laird for all of his efforts to help local governments get the additional time and flexibility we need to meet the state's ambitious climate and emissions reduction goals.

For these reasons, the City of San Pablo **supports SB 619 (IN CONCEPT)**, and urges your leadership and support to continue its proper consideration with further discussion on this important issue to local cities, and their residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Pabon-Alvarado, Mayor
City of San Pablo

cc: State Senator John Laird, 17th District
State Senator Nancy Skinner, 9th District
State Assembly Member Buffy Wicks, 15th District
Samantha Caygill, League of California Cities, East Bay Division,
scaygill@cacities.org
League of California Cities (Via email: cityletters@cacities.org)

The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th District - Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Re: SUPPORT IN CONCEPT FOR SB 619 (LAIRD) ORGANIC WASTE: REDUCTION REGULATIONS (*As Amended 3/10/21*)
April 8, 2021
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