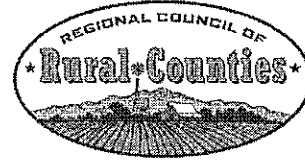


2009 Legislation

Position Letters Sent by RCRC on Solid Waste Related Bills

- AB 1329 Brownley Waste management – joint support (9/9/09)
- SB 402 Wolk Recycling: California redemption value



September 9, 2009

The Honorable Julia Brownley
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2163
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: ASSEMBLY BILL 1329 - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Brownley:

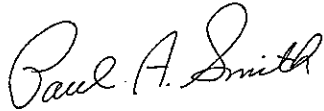
The Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC), California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and the League of California Cities (League) write to express our support for your Assembly Bill 1329, which would delay by one year the implementation of the abolishment of the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) and transfer of its duties and responsibilities to the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery in the Natural Resources Agency.

In many cases throughout the state, counties and cities operate or contract for collection services, transfer stations, recycling centers, municipal waste disposal landfills, and household hazardous waste collection programs. Counties and cities, through their solid waste managers, are charged with ensuring that their respective counties meet state-imposed solid waste diversion requirements and work closely with the CIWMB and other state officials to achieve a level of compliance.

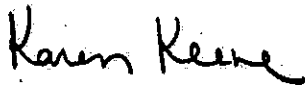
We have worked with the CIWMB on a daily basis and it is our experience that a board structure is a preferable governance model for overseeing the often-controversial subject of waste management and recycling because it has offered extensive opportunity for public access and, most importantly, controversial decisions are made in public. The success of the current board is due in large part to this open and public process.

We still prefer to see the solid waste management functions within Cal EPA with an alternative equally open and public decision making process. However, in order to facilitate a seamless transition for both existing staff, as well as the regulated community, we embrace an additional year to allow adequate time to plan for a reasonable implementation strategy. We look forward to working with you, other members of the Legislature and the Administration to accomplish this goal. As such, we believe AB 1329 provides the necessary time frame to make methodical and productive decisions.

Sincerely,



Paul A. Smith
Director of Legislative Affairs
RCRC



Karen Keene
Legislative Representative
CSAC



Kyra Ross
Legislative Representative
League

cc: The Honorable Wes Chesbro, Member of the Assembly
Members of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Members of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee

Alpine Amador Butte Calaveras Colusa
Del Norte El Dorado Glenn Imperial Inyo
Lake Lassen Madera Mariposa Merced



Modoc Mono Napa Nevada Placer Plumas
San Benito San Luis Obispo Shasta Sierra
Siskiyou Sutter Tehama Trinity Tuolumne Yuba

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President and CEO - Greg Norton
Executive Vice President - Patricia J. Megason
Chief Financial Officer - Karl Dolk

September 17, 2009

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 402 (Wolk) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC) respectfully urges your signature for Senate Bill 402. SB 402, authored by Senator Lois Wolk, makes a number of important reforms to the Beverage Container Recycling program.

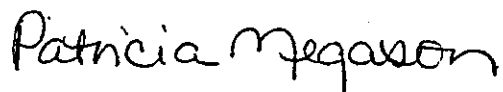
Counties, through their solid waste managers, are charged with ensuring that their respective counties meet state-imposed solid waste diversion requirements and work closely with state officials to achieve a level of compliance. Via the Beverage Container Recycling Fund, private recyclers are eligible for state subsidies (commonly known as "handling fees"). In the absence of these state subsidies, many of these private recyclers in rural areas – that also accept and recycle other commodities - could no longer remain in business and would ultimately impact a county's diversion requirements.

As a result of a successful increased recycling rate and State General Fund loans, there are currently insufficient funds available in the Beverage Container Recycling Fund to pay the necessary on-going costs of the recycling infrastructure. The Department of Conservation, which administers the program, has been forced to proportionately reduce funding to various programs, many of which are vital to local government and maintaining the success of the high beverage container recycling rate. SB 402 attempts to provide a comprehensive solution that preserves funding for core recycling programs, including handling fees to convenience zone recyclers, payments to cities and counties, curbside recycling, conservation corps, and performance-based market development payments. Furthermore, SB 402 reduces, suspends, and eliminates non-core program expenditures in order to balance program funding and expenditures.

We understand that your Administration has concerns about provisions of SB 402 which bring additional container-types into the program. We would like to point out that this is vital aspect of the bill. As handlers of solid waste, rural counties believe it necessary to create incentives so these products can be recycled and thus, avoid being placed in landfills. Imposing a deposit on these container types is appropriate.

For these reasons, RCRC respectfully requests your signature for SB 402. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Megason". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Patricia Megason
Executive Vice President

cc: The Honorable Lois Wolk, Member of the State Senate