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California Resource Recovery Association

August 26, 2009

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 63 – Location of Dept. of Resources, Recycling and Recovery

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

SB 63 created a new Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery at the Natural Resources Agency. Realigning California Integrated Waste Management Board and the Division of Recycling seemed inevitable, as did elimination of the previous Board structure.

However the new Department lacks openness, and is inconsistent with CIWMB's statutory authority. AB 939 relied on a public process for policy, permits, review, rulemaking, and decisions. Closing the process puts CIWMB's inherent open deliberation into a closed administrative arena.

Your signing message indicated willingness to reconsider elements of SB 63. As you do, please reinstate the public process by establishing an accessible and accountable Board. A Board with member expertise in recycling, composting and zero waste is needed to achieve California's environmental protection and resource conservation goals.

The California Environmental Protection Agency seems best suited to administering the new Department. CalEPA already houses the Air Resources and Water Boards, and so is adapted to the new structure. Finally, most of the Department's responsibilities and resources succeed from CIWMB, which has been in CalEPA since its inception.

Thank you for your work and leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

J. Muir

Julie Muir
President

Cc: Senator Joe Simitian

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