

SPONSORS

PARTNER

Sacramento Regional
Solid Waste Authority

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE
CalRecycle

GOLD

Republic Services

StopWaste

SILVER

Athens Services

Call2 Recycle

Cascadia Consulting
Services

California Refuse
Recycling Council

City of Fremont

City of Livermore

HF&H Consultants

Marin Sanitary Services

PSSI/Stanford Recycling

R3 Consulting

Recology

Zanker Recycling

September 9, 2016

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Governor's Office
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

Re: SB 1383 (Lara) – Methane Emission Reduction - Request for Signature

On behalf of the California Resource Recovery Association, we respectfully request your signature on Senate Bill 1383 (by Senator Lara) which aims to 1) reduce methane emissions from landfills by diverting organic waste to be used as soil amendments and 2) recover 20% of edible food that is currently discarded to feed the more than six million food insecure Californians.

Organic waste materials make up two-thirds of the state's waste stream and when disposed of in landfills organic waste generates methane, a Short-lived Climate Pollutant that is many times more potent than carbon dioxide. Short-lived Climate Pollutants, or Super Pollutants, are toxic air contaminants that pose significant environmental public risks, including premature death. Even modern landfill gas capture systems can only capture half to three quarters of landfill emissions while they are in operation and decades after they are removed landfills continue to release methane.

It's clear that the only way to truly minimize methane emissions from landfills is to divert the methane-generating organic waste to other end uses. When managed outside the landfill, these same materials can be composted and/or digested under controlled conditions, which not only prevents the generation of landfill methane but also creates products that reduce greenhouse gas emissions when they are used.

This bill aims to expand the state's composting infrastructure, which according to a recent analysis by CalRecycle, producing compost or other soil amendments can create 14,000 more California jobs by 2020 than would landfilling the same material. In addition to traditional composting, much of the diverted material can alternatively be used as a feedstock for digestion facilities, to generate low carbon fuels or renewable energy.



SB 1383 creates a target of a 75% reduction in the disposal of organic waste from 2014 levels by 2025, which includes a goal of 20% of edible food that is currently discarded to be recovered for human consumption. The methane reductions that this bill creates will provide immediate beneficial impacts to air quality, public health, and climate change.

For these reasons, I urge your approval of this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

John H Dane

John H. Dane
Executive Director

cc. Graciela Castillo-Krings, Office of Governor Jerry Brown
Scott Smithline, CalRecycle
Senator Ricardo Lara

CRRA is California's state-wide recycling association. It is the oldest and one of the largest non-profit recycling organizations in the United States. A 501(c)(3) organization, CRRA is dedicated to achieving environmental sustainability in and beyond California through Zero Waste strategies including product stewardship, waste prevention, reuse, recycling and composting. CRRA advances local, regional and state-wide waste reduction efforts which result in critical environmental and climate protection outcomes. Our members represent all aspects of California's reduce-reuse-recycle-compost economy. They work for cities and counties, as well as hauling companies, material processors, non-profit organizations, state agencies, and in allied professions.