



LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES



Napa Recycling & WASTE SERVICES



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February 21, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O St., Room 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Mike McGuire
Senate President pro Tempore
1021 O St., Room 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Request to Include SB 1383 Funding in a Natural Resources Bond

Dear Governor Newsom, President pro Tempore McGuire, and Speaker Rivas:

On behalf of the above organizations, we write to request that any climate bond approved by the Legislature this year include necessary funding to support implementation of SB 1383 (Chapter 395, Statutes of 2016). SB 1383 is a critical component of California's plan to combat climate change, and local jurisdictions and their local partners are on the front lines of this fight. The scope and complexity of these efforts have had an immense impact on local budgets, infrastructure, and operations, and continued state funding is needed to support our efforts.

SB 1383 implements statewide organic waste recycling and surplus food recovery to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants, especially methane, while addressing food insecurity. The law set several ambitious, statewide targets to reduce the amount of organic waste deposited in to landfills in an effort to curb these pollutants. Unfortunately, the state did not achieve SB 1383's 2020 goal to divert 50% of organic waste and the 2025 goal of a 75% reduction is swiftly approaching. To meaningfully make progress towards achieving these goals, it is critical that local governments and their local partners have access to state bond funding, in addition to the significant

investments that local jurisdictions and ratepayers have made, to advance procurement of compost and mulch, ensure that all residents and businesses subscribe to compost and recycling services, provide education and technical assistance to minimize contamination in the organic waste stream, accelerate food waste prevention and edible food recovery, and more.

While we understand this is a difficult budget year, local jurisdictions are working under tight timelines to diligently build out the infrastructure and markets needed to implement SB 1383 and are in dire need of financial support from the state. The Governor's Budget proposes to help address the looming deficit by utilizing cuts, delays, and reversions to climate related programs, including those that can be used to achieve SB 1383 goals. Previous investments, including SB 1383 Local Assistance Grants and the Organic Waste Infrastructure Program, have helped expand local capacity, support infrastructure investments, and enhance educational outreach efforts. In particular, the noncompetitive nature of the Local Assistance Grants have been immensely helpful, especially for smaller jurisdictions that often do not have the resources to go after every competitive grant opportunity. However, more support is needed in nearly every jurisdiction in the state.

It is widely recognized that methane is a key driver of climate change and that landfills are one of the largest point sources of methane emissions in California. Therefore, if the Legislature chooses to move forward with a bond to address climate change it is critical that funding be included to support local efforts in the implementation of SB 1383. Specifically, we support the inclusion of *at least* the two hundred million dollars (\$200,000,000) in AB 408 (Wilson), and deeply appreciate both Assembly Member Wilson and Assembly Member Garcia for recognizing this important issue in their respective bond legislation.

Local governments and their local partners are on the front lines in the fight against climate change, however, without state support the financial burden of organic waste targets will have to be shouldered elsewhere, leading to dramatic impacts on ratepayers and the cost of living in California. We look forward to working together to find a path forward and improving the lives of all of California's residents.

CC Honorable Lori Wilson, California State Assembly
Honorable Eduardo Garcia, California State Assembly