



Zero Waste Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR
July 25, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Zero Waste Commission
 Submitted by: Alfred Twu, Chairperson, Zero Waste Commission
 Subject: Support of Assembly Budget Committee Bottle Bill Fix Proposal

RECOMMENDATION

Support the Assembly Budget Committee Bottle Bill Fix Proposal, which would address the causes and consequences of California's 16 month Recycling Center Closure Crisis, and send a letter expressing the City Council's support to the Assembly Budget Committee.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

There are no fiscal impacts to this recommendation.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

CalRecycle data reveals that 1.6 million fewer containers per day were recycled in the last six months of 2016, compared to the same period in 2015. That's 23,000 additional tons of glass, plastic and metal littered or landfilled in just 6 months. For those consumers who recycle for cash, this equates to \$72,000 per day in reduced refund values paid out. CalRecycle has indicated that between April 1, 2015 and April 1, 2017, more than 560 recycling centers closed—25% of the statewide total.

In May 2016 and April 2017 reports to the legislature, the Legislative Analyst's Office identified "...program payments that do not sufficiently cover recycler costs as the main causes of the closures." In the wake of these closures, California's recycling rate has fallen below 80% for the first time since 2008. Reduced recycling opportunities mean increased litter and waste.

BACKGROUND

Using existing program funds, this proposal will reinstate recycling payments and funding authority necessary to support California's recycling infrastructure and help return a 'real' opportunity to recycle to the hundreds of communities and neighborhoods that have seen their centers close.

Key provisions of this proposal will help prevent additional center closures, create necessary and stable funding to re-open closed centers, and substantially narrow the responsibility of CalRecycle to enforce the costly, inconvenient and inefficient 'in-store'

takeback obligation. Consumers, particularly in rural areas, need their opportunity to recycle reinstated. California's public, private and non-profit recycling infrastructure needs a period of stability and predictability to recover. The Assembly budget proposal accomplishes this.

At its meeting on May 22, 2017, the Zero Waste Commission passed a motion to recommend sending a letter of support for the Assembly Bottle Bill Fix Proposal. (M/S/C: de Tourney/Stein. Ayes: Twu, de Tourney, McKinstry, Stein, Chang, Watson, Clark; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent; None.)

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The budgetary adjustment will enhance the environmental sustainability of our community. Increased recycling opportunities mean decreased litter and waste.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Zero Waste Commission finds that allocating funds for the Bottle Bill would be effective in helping the City achieve its goal of zero waste by 2020.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The alternative of inaction has been considered and was found to be detrimental to zero waste goals.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager takes no position on the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report.

CONTACT PERSON

Heidi Obermeit, Recycling Program Manager (510) 981-6357

Attachments:

1: DRAFT Sign on Letter: FIX WHAT'S BROKEN: Assembly Budget Committee Bottle Bill Fix

DRAFT Sign on Letter: FIX WHAT'S BROKEN: Assembly Budget Committee Bottle Bill fix

Californians Against Waste
California Grocers Association
California Refuse Recycling Council
California Retailers Association
Los Angeles County Waste Management Association
Inland Empire Disposal Association
Solid Waste Association of Orange County
Republic Services

TO: Members, Legislative Budget Conference Committee

RE: Recycling Center Closure Fix: SUPPORT Assembly Budget Proposal

We are united in our support of the proposal to address the causes and consequences of California's 16 month Recycling Center Closure Crisis. Using existing program funds, the proposal will reinstate recycling payments and funding authority necessary to support California's recycling infrastructure and help return a 'real' opportunity to recycle to the hundreds of communities and neighborhoods that have seen their centers close.

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We are also united in the goal of maintaining and extending California's recycling success and leadership, and stand ready to work with the legislature, the administration and other stakeholders on any efforts to update this program as necessary to increase its efficacy and sustainability.

Accordingly, we urge the Budget Conference Committee to adopt the Bottle Bill Fix put forth by the Assembly.

