



# COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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Feb. 17, 2021

Assemblymember Jim Wood  
1036 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

Senator Mike McGuire  
State Capitol, Room 5061  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **RE: Request to Consider Sponsoring Legislative Relief or CRV Redemption Services In Humboldt and Other Similarly Affected Counties**

Dear Assemblymember Wood and Senator McGuire,

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully request your consideration to sponsor emergency legislative relief, or other appropriate mechanism, to enable California Redemption Value (CRV) redemption services in Humboldt County.

Simply put, the CRV system is not working, and the state of the current recycling programs in California is broken. In the big picture, the over-reliance on overseas markets for the use of recycled material has failed. Locally, this has resulted in recyclers being unable to dispose of materials and the closure of Humboldt County's certified CRV redemption centers. Ultimately, the residents we serve are most affected as they cannot redeem their CRV fee on goods they purchase, while being charged upfront with a promise they can redeem its value later.

Statewide, over 50% of CRV redemption centers have closed in the last 5 years due to increased costs of business, insufficient state processing and handling fee payments, low commodity market values, regulatory inflexibility and a one-size-fits-all approach that does not allow for local considerations. Humboldt County recently attempted to pilot an innovative reverse vending machine project to CalRecycle, but that proposal could not advance due to a lack of available slots because only five pilot projects were legislatively approved. We are out of options, and we urgently need the state to step in to allow Humboldt County recycling centers to be recertified, temporarily accept material on appointment basis and resume serving residents effectively.

We respectfully encourage the state legislature to assist recycling centers by modifying some of the existing Certified Buyback operating restrictions and identifying temporary relief measures that allow recyclers in affected communities to reopen until a comprehensive reform of the state's Beverage Container Recycling & Litter Reduction Act (aka "Bottle Bill") is approved and implemented. Specifically, we are requesting that the state immediately implement changes in legislation that:

- Allow for easy and expedited recertification of Humboldt County CRV Redemption centers that were decertified in 2020.
- Direct CalRecycle to develop protocols with Humboldt recycling centers for operation of a Certified Buyback program on an appointment-based model.
- Increase the Allowable Daily Load Limits of CRV material to pre-2014 limits for a period of no less than 9 months to allow recyclers/CRV redemption centers to accommodate the heavy demand built up since March, 2020.
- Extend the grace period and do not impose fines on local retailers for failing to provide CRV buyback until such time as a long-term CRV Redemption solution can be implemented.

- Allow any funds in CalRecycle's Penalty Account (those retailers opting out of CRV redemption services) into a grant fund account to establish and support local redemption opportunities, or for handling fees for the CRV redemption facilities.

The county supports legislation that enables comprehensive reform of the CRV redemption program, and it is for these reasons Humboldt respectfully requests your consideration to sponsor emergency legislative relief, or other appropriate mechanism, to enable CRV redemption services in Humboldt County.

Sincerely,



Amy Nilsen  
Humboldt County Administrative Officer

CC: California State Association of Counties  
Rural County Representatives of California  
Shaw/Yoder/Antwih/Schmelzer/Lange