



September 1, 2021

The Honorable John Laird
Member, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4040
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 619 (Laird) – SUPPORT
As Amended August 30, 2021**

Dear Senator Laird:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I am writing to express our support for your Senate Bill 619 regarding organic waste recycling. RCRC is an association of thirty-seven rural California counties and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each member county.

The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery's (CalRecycle) new organic waste regulations were adopted to implement Senate Bill 1383 (Lara, Chapter 395, 2016), which requires the state to reduce landfill disposal of organic waste 75 percent by 2025 and to increase edible food waste recovery 20 percent. These new changes are the most far-reaching solid waste management changes in decades. SB 619 provides important clarifications and options for local governments concerning implementation of those new organic waste recycling regulations.

Residential De Minimis Waivers. SB 619 allows local governments to issue residential de minimis waivers from collection for generators that produce less than ½ gallon of organic waste per week thereby allowing those who manage their organic waste on-site to avoid having to subscribe to service. While the SB 1383 organic waste recycling regulations allow jurisdictions to issue de minimis waivers to commercial generators, there is no similar provision allowing the issuance of de minimis waivers for residential generators. SB 619 addresses this oversight.

Local Relief from Requirement to Provide Collection Service. SB 619 allows generators to self-haul in lieu of the local jurisdiction providing collection service where the jurisdiction finds, based on substantial evidence, that it would be exceptionally difficult, impractical, or impossible to provide mandatory organic waste collection services because of situations such as, but not limited to, those where access

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by solid waste collection vehicles is impacted by road widths, weight limits, surfaces, grades, turning radiuses, or unsafe seasonal road conditions.

CalRecycle's new organic waste regulations require local jurisdictions to provide collection service to all residents; however, this ignores the reality many rural communities face where some areas are inaccessible to solid waste collection trucks. The regulations fail to recognize that many rural communities have areas with unpaved roads or where the roads are not wide enough or strong enough to accommodate frequent use by solid waste collection vehicles. It also fails to recognize that some roads and areas are "snowed in" during parts of the year and will be inaccessible to large vehicles. SB 619 is a much-needed refinement that recognizes that universal route collection is not suitable in all areas of the state and allows locals to require residents in those areas to self-haul their organic waste in lieu of having to provide collection service. In this respect, SB 619 provides local jurisdictions flexibility to develop and implement local programs that achieve the state's organic waste reduction goals effectively and efficiently. While SB 619 provides flexibility for local governments to require individuals to self-haul organic waste where the local government cannot provide collection service, it should not be read to impair the ability for individuals to choose how to manage their organic waste under 14 CCR 18984.9.

For the above reasons, RCRC is pleased to support SB 619. Please do not hesitate to contact me at jkennedy@rcrcnet.org or (916) 447-4806 with any questions.

Sincerely,



JOHN KENNEDY
Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Luz Rivas, Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Elizabeth MacMillan, Consultant, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Kirstin Kolpitcke, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
The Honorable Benjamin Allen, Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Genevieve Wong, Consultant, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Scott Seekatz, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus