



MARIPOSA COUNTY

Administration • 966-3222



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2019-57

MEETING: February 5, 2019
TO: The Board of Supervisors
FROM: Dallin Kimble, County Administrative Officer
RE: Recycling Commission

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Adopt a Resolution Requesting the Governor Establish a Statewide Commission to Address Significant Challenges to Our Recycling Markets

Local governments are partners with the state in meeting our recycling and waste diversion goals. Under the Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, cities and counties are required to divert 50 percent of all solid waste out of the landfill by January 1, 2000 through source reduction, recycling, and composting activities. AB 341 (Chapter 476, Statutes of 2011) also established a statewide goal that not less than 75 percent of solid waste generated be source reduced, recycled, or composted by the year 2020.

Mariposa County has been largely successful in achieving and making progress towards these goals and others over recent years. However, recent changes in China's trade import policies have significantly disrupted recycling efforts by restricting foreign imports of recyclable materials and requiring reduced contamination levels in recycling streams. These changes are collectively referred to as "National Sword" and will ultimately close off Chinese and Asian markets to California's scrap imports completely by 2020. These markets have served as the foundation for California's recycling system as the export of recyclable materials is a key component of state and local recycling infrastructure.

Significant market disruptions for recyclable materials have a direct impact on Mariposa County and our ability to meet state-mandated recycling goals. With diminished revenue from the sale of recyclable materials, the landfill will struggle to meet State requirements. Additional revenues, including a potential rate increase, will be necessary to prevent slowdowns in waste processing, significant public health risks and State fines and penalties.

In addition to this challenge, local governments across California will soon have to comply with new state regulations for organic waste processing and diversion. SB 1383 (Chapters 395, 2016) establishes targets to achieve a 50 percent reduction in the level of the statewide disposal of organic waste from the 2014 level by 2020 and a 75 percent reduction by 2025. Infrastructure required to implement these regulations is

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expected to cost billions. As a result, local government resource recovery and waste management operations are facing several significant infrastructure challenges over the next several years.

In order to more fully address this issue, and in partnership with the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), staff recommends the adoption of the attached resolution. The resolution, which requests a commission be established to address the challenges to the recycling industry on a statewide level, also includes support for including representatives from local governments who would have the task of making recommendations for the solutions to our declining markets for recyclable materials.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board routinely approves resolutions requesting state action.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Do not approve. CSAC will continue to lobby for the commission on our behalf.

ATTACHMENTS:

Draft National Sword Reso 1.8.19 (DOCX)

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor

SECONDER: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor

AYES: Rosemarie Smallcombe, Marshall Long, Kevin Cann, Miles Menetrey

EXCUSED: Merlin Jones

MARIPOSA COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 19-57

Resolution in Support of a Statewide Commission on Recycling Markets

WHEREAS Counties are leaders and critical partners in California's leading sustainability efforts; and

WHEREAS China recently enacted strict mixed paper and plastic contamination limits and import bans which are collectively referred to as National Sword; and

WHEREAS China has declared their intent to ban all recyclable material imports by 2020; and

WHEREAS exporting recyclable materials to foreign markets is a key component of California's recycling infrastructure and the ability of local landfill and recycling operations to meet state regulations; and

WHEREAS National Sword policy changes in China has led to the decline of other international markets for recyclables, and subsequent stockpiles of unsold materials at California solid waste and recycling facilities; and

WHEREAS California recycling policy relies on robust international markets to purchase and process the millions of tons of recyclable waste it produces each year; and

WHEREAS stockpiled paper and plastic materials in California's solid waste and recycling facilities is causing slowdowns in processing of other waste materials and is creating significant public health risks; and

WHEREAS local governments across California will soon have to comply with additional state regulations for organic waste diversion and processing. SB 1383 (Chapters 395, 2016) establishes targets to achieve a 50 percent reduction in the level of the statewide disposal of organic waste from the 2014 level by 2020 and a 75 percent reduction by 2025. Infrastructure required to implement these regulations is expected to cost billions; and

WHEREAS these increased diversion requirement added to recent changes to international policies and a declining global market value for recyclables, has resulted in an issue of statewide concern for the resource recovery industry, local governments, and Californians.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the County of Mariposa calls for the Governor to establish a statewide Commission to address these significant challenges to our recycling markets. The Commission should be comprised of state, local and industry representatives with the task of making recommendations for solutions to our declining markets for recyclable materials, while continuing to emphasize the need to

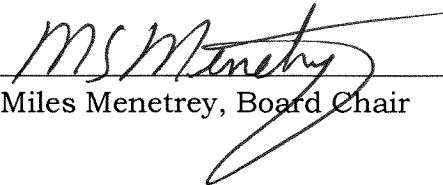
divert materials from our landfills. The Commission should examine potential solutions including, but not limited to, the development of international and domestic markets, updated compliance standards in this new economic environment, ways to increase source reduction, and any other means that will alleviate the growing public health and environmental crisis while still allowing California to meet its goals for a sustainable future.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 5th day of February 2019 by the following vote:

AYES: SMALLCOMBE, LONG, CANN, MENETREY

NOES: NONE

EXCUSED: JONES


Miles Menetrey, Board Chair

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Rene LaRoche, Clerk of the Board


Steven W. Dahlem, County Counsel