



**SWANA**<sup>®</sup>

SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION  
of North America

**\*\*\* ASSEMBLY FLOOR ALERT \*\*\***

**AB 479 (CHESBRO)**

**URGE YOUR OPPOSITION**

**CALIFORNIA CHAPTERS**

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**LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE**

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**LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATES**

PAUL J YODER  
Shaw/Yoder Inc  
1415 L Street Suite 200  
Sacramento CA 95814  
(916) 446-4656  
FAX (916) 446-4318  
paul@shawyoder.org

**CHAIR**

GRACE CHAN  
LA County Sanitation Districts  
1955 Workman Mill Road  
Whittier, CA 90601  
(562) 699-7411 ext 2402  
gchan@lacsdsd.org

**VICE CHAIR**

WILLIAM MERRY  
Monterey RWMD  
14201 Del Monte Boulevard  
P.O. Box 1670  
Marina, CA 93933  
(831) 384-5313  
wmerry@mrwmd.org

**TREASURER**

NANCY L EWERT, RE  
Kern County  
2700 M Street, Suite 500  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
(661) 862-8933  
newert@co.kern.ca.us

**SECRETARY**

MARK URQUHART P.E.  
Senior Project Manager  
HDR ONE COMPANY  
2365 Iron Point Rd #300  
Folsom, CA 95630  
(916) 817-4933  
Mark.Urquhart@hdrinc.com

DATE: June 2, 2009

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY  
FROM: Paul Yoder, Legislative Advocate, **SWANA**

**RE: AB 479 (Chesbro) Solid waste: diversion- OPPOSE**

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The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), the largest association of solid waste professionals (7,700 members), is committed to advancing the practices of environmentally and economically sound management of municipal solid waste. On behalf of their California Chapters, I am writing to **oppose** AB 479 (Chesbro) regarding the diversion of solid waste

AB 479, if enacted, would increase the mandatory diversion rate from 50 percent to 60 percent by January 1, 2015 and 75 percent by January 1, 2020. The bill would also require local governments to adopt a mandatory commercial recycling ordinance within their jurisdictions. Lastly, the bill would increase the State waste disposal tipping fee from its current rate of \$1.40 to \$3.90 per ton. The additional revenue may be provided to local governments, subject to certain restrictions, all at the sole discretion of the California Integrated Waste Management Board (Waste Board) and subject to achieving the bill's proposed mandatory diversion mandates.

AB 479 recognizes the need for jurisdictions to commit resources to meet these new requirements by increasing the solid waste disposal fee and returning portions of this increase to local governments. However, we feel that the \$2.50 increase to the tipping fee is too steep and could lead to an increase in illegal dumping. Second, we fear that much of this increase will be absorbed by the State to address its own fiscal shortfalls, maintain the Waste Board's functions, and/or offset administrative costs to implement programs. And finally, as steep as the increase is, the amount being returned to jurisdictions is likely not to equate to the costs of meeting the increased diversion requirement.

For local governments to meet any increase, they must have a variety of tools at our ready. These include: requiring product design that is more durable, create less waste and producer responsibility; legislative changes to facilitate take-back programs; assistance for siting organics compost facilities; better efforts to manage organics; and efforts to enhance conversion technology. Much more needs to be included and put into law prior to increasing the mandate upon jurisdictions.