



SWANA[®]

SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION
of North America

CALIFORNIA CHAPTERS

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LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE

www.swanacal-leg.org

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, P.E.
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

June 29, 2009

The Honorable Joe Simitian
Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 2205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 479 (Chesbro) Solid Waste: diversion- **Oppose**

Dear Chairman Simitian,

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 and enforce 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.

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 these reasons, SWANA regretfully must **oppose** AB 479 (Chesbro).

Sincerely,

Paul Yoder
Legislative Advocate

Cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
The Honorable Wesley Chesbro