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September 7, 2016

The Honorable Jerry Brown  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, Governor's Office  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 970 (Leyva) – Organic food waste diversion – Request for Signature**

Dear Governor Brown,

The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) is the world's largest association of solid waste professionals (over 8,000 members). SWANA's California chapters represent more than 900 members. SWANA is committed to advancing the practice of environmentally- and economically-sound management of municipal solid waste. SWANA's California Legislative Task Force (LTF) is responsible for representing the California Chapters on legislative and regulatory issues.

SWANA is pleased to **SUPPORT SB 970**, which would require that by June 1, 2017, CalRecycle, in consultation with the State Air Resources Board and the State Water Resources Control Board, develop a pilot demonstration program to award matching funding for cost-effective and efficient integrated food waste diversion projects at existing wastewater treatment facilities (WWTF).

Regional wastewater agencies are uniquely positioned to develop regional food waste programs. A recent survey conducted at the request of the Administration demonstrates that wastewater agencies using existing digestion capacity can handle 75% or more of the food waste that needs to be diverted from landfills. Regional programs that partner with local waste haulers and utilize existing facilities and digestion capacities are the most efficient and cost-effective option. Additionally, cooperative regional programs will ensure that the state maximizes resource recovery and reuse by encouraging energy and transportation fuel production with the diverted waste streams that can provide additional important local environmental benefits.

**SB 970** will provide local jurisdictions with the additional resources necessary to develop efficient organic waste diversion projects on a regional scale. This bill will help California achieve its waste diversion and short-lived climate pollutants reduction goals. For these reasons and more, SWANA is pleased to **SUPPORT SB 970**, and respectfully requests that you **SIGN** this bill when it comes before your desk. Thank you for your consideration of this important measure.

Sincerely,

Jason Schmelzer  
SWANA Legislative Advocate

Cc: The Honorable Connie Leyva, 20<sup>th</sup> Senate District