



August 7, 2017

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 920 (Aguiar-Curry) California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Lara,

On behalf of the California Chapters of the Solid Waste Association of North America's (SWANA) Legislative Task Force (LTF), I am pleased to write to you in **SUPPORT** of **AB 920 (Aguiar-Curry)**, which would help the state achieve its climate and energy goals by encouraging the use and development of baseload renewable energy as part of a diverse portfolio of renewable energy resources.

SWANA is the world's largest association of solid waste professionals (7,700 members). SWANA's California chapters represent more than 900 members. SWANA represents much of the publicly-owned and –operated solid waste management infrastructure in the state and the local governments responsible for implementing waste diversion and recycling programs. The LTF is responsible for representing the California Chapters on legislative and regulatory issues. SWANA is committed to advancing the practice of environmentally- and economically-sound management of municipal solid waste.

Specifically, **AB 920 (Aguiar-Curry)** will require the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and local publicly owned utilities (POUs), as part of the integrated resource planning process, to evaluate the mix of resources in electricity portfolios and assess the need for new renewable baseload generation. Baseload renewable generation such as geothermal and biomass naturally complement other more common renewable resources, including wind and solar. Encouraging diversity in the state's energy sources will increase energy reliability to meet the state's energy demands.

Importantly, baseload generation provides important economic and environmental benefits. In recent years, California has seen a decline in biomass facilities throughout the state, yet these facilities provide jobs and create an end use for agricultural, forestry, and urban wood waste. Dead trees from fires, disease, and orchard turnover create large amounts of potentially hazardous organic waste. Without sufficient biomass plants available to accept this waste, open burning will continue to rise, contributing to emissions and air pollutants that have detrimental impacts on air quality and public health, as well as disastrous forest fires as have occurred in recent years.

This bill will help the state progress towards its ambitious 2020 goal of a reduction in organic waste disposal by 50% from 2014 levels. For these reasons and more, SWANA is pleased to **SUPPORT AB 920 (Aguiar-Curry)**. Thank you for your consideration of this important measure.

Sincerely,

Jason Schmelzer
Partner
Shaw / Yoder / Antwih, Inc.

Cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, 4th Assembly District

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATES

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