



SWANA[®]

SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION
of North America

CALIFORNIA CHAPTERS

FOUNDING

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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@lacsds.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

July 17, 2008

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4162
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1972 (DeSaulnier) - Solid Waste: plastic bags: food and beverage containers- Oppose

Dear Assemblyman DeSaulnier,

The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) is composed of approximately 7000 public and private sector solid waste management professionals throughout North America dedicated to the development and enhancement of environmentally and economically sound practices and policies for the integrated management of municipal solid waste. There are approximately 900 members of SWANA in California, and on their behalf I am writing to regretfully OPPOSE AB 1972, regarding recyclable plastic bags.

AB 1972 would change the current exemption to the prohibition of selling plastic bags to require the bag to meet the ASTM Standard Specification for Compostable Plastics D6400 or the ASTM Standard Specification for Non-Floating Biodegradable Plastics in the Marine Environment D7801 in order to be deemed "biodegradable" or "degradable".

SWANA opposes AB 1972 because not all local jurisdictions have composting facilities. It has also been the experience of some of our members that even though these bags claim to be "biodegradable" they still take years to break down and contaminate the compost material. We believe that AB 1972 will cause a problem with the well intentioned public using these bags and throwing them into the waste stream believing that they have made an eco-friendly choice.

For these reasons, we regretfully must OPPOSE AB 1972 (DeSaulnier).

Sincerely,

Paul J. Yoder
Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
Senate Floor Analysis