



SWANA[®]
SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION
of North America

CALIFORNIA CHAPTERS

FOUNDING

SIERRA

GOLDRUSH

LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE

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May 10, 2011

The Honorable Felipe Fuentes
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 341 (Chesbro) Solid waste: diversion - OPPOSE

Dear Chair Fuentes,

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 urging you to **OPPOSE AB 341** (Chesbro) regarding the diversion of solid waste.

AB 341, if enacted, would require the California Integrated Waste Board to "ensure" that 75 percent of generated solid waste is diverted through source reduction, recycling, or composting by January 1, 2020. The bill also requires local governments to implement commercial recycling programs.

In addition, AB 341 includes a requirement for commercial and multifamily recycling. While we do not oppose the need for additional recycling from these areas, we believe this requirement is duplicative of the current efforts underway at CAL Recycle. As part of the AB 32 Scoping Plan, CAL Recycle is finalizing its commercial recycling regulation, which is scheduled to go before the California Air Resources Board for adoption in the near future. CAL Recycle has been working with municipal governments for months to craft these regulatory efforts. We believe this has been an effective process and additional legislation regarding commercial recycling is not necessary and will increase the costs already being spent by the State to draft and implement the AB 32 regulations.

This bill which is similar to previous legislation by Assemblyman Chesbro including AB 479 (2009) and AB 737 (2010), fails to provide the tools needed by local governments to achieve the increased diversion rates and adds another unfunded mandate to cities and counties that are struggling financially to provide for the current needs of their communities. The tools needed by local government to increase diversion include: conversion technology and the need for development of markets (other than those in China, Pacific Rim Countries & India) for recycled & composted materials.

For these reasons, SWANA regretfully must **OPPOSE AB 341 (Chesbro)** and urge your "no" vote when it is heard in committee.

Sincerely,

Tressa Wallace
Legislative Advocate

Cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Wesley Chesbro