



SWANA[®]

SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION
of North America

CALIFORNIA CHAPTERS

FOUNDING

SIERRA

GOLDRUSH

LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE

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FLOOR ALERT

VOTE "NO" on SB 833

Date: August 26, 2011

To: Members, California State Assembly

From: Jason Schmelzer, SWANA Legislative Advocate

RE: **SB 833 (Vargas) – Solid Waste Disposal: Facilities – San Diego County
OPPOSE**

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 urge you to **OPPOSE SB 833 (Vargas)** regarding solid waste facility permits.

SB 833 bill will prohibits a person from constructing or operating a solid waste landfill disposal facility in San Diego County if that facility meets both of the following conditions: 1) Any portion of the disposal facility is located on or within 1,000 feet of the San Luis Rey River or an aquifer that is hydrologically connected to that river, and 2) The disposal facility is located on or within 1,000 feet of a site that is considered sacred or of spiritual or cultural importance to a tribe, as defined, and that is listed in the California Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands Inventory.

The Integrated Waste Management Act along with the Planning and Zoning Law and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) provide for an extensive process for the permitting of solid waste disposal facilities. The process used for siting these facilities is open to the public and allows for broad commentary from citizens. These statutes allow parties to challenge the environmental impact report, which would be required to be adopted. Furthermore, both Acts allow challenges to the permitting process when there are threats to drinking water or disturbances of sacred lands of Native Americans.

The SWANA LTF believes that the current process exists and allows for an exhaustive approach when an entity seeks to construct or expand a disposal facility and SB 833 sets a dangerous precedent for the process of siting a landfill or any undesirable land use.

For these reasons, the California Chapters of **SWANA OPPOSES SB 833** and urges your **"NO"** vote when it is heard in committee.