



SWANA[®]
SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION
of North America

April 15, 2011

The Honorable Joe Simitan
Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol, Room 2205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 833 (Vargas) Solid waste: facilities permit – OPPOSE

CALIFORNIA CHAPTERS

FOUNDING

SIERRA

GOLDRUSH

LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE

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

SB 833 bill will prohibit an enforcement agency from issuing a solid waste facilities permit, on or after January 1, 2012, if that permit would allow the disposal of solid waste within 500 feet of a river that supplies any aquifer that provides drinking water for more than 50,000 persons, or within 1,000 feet of a site considered to be sacred and of spiritual importance to a federally recognized Indian tribe.

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. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tressa Wallace
Legislative Advocate

Cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Environmental Committee
The Honorable Juan Vargas