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SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION  
of North America

**CALIFORNIA CHAPTERS**

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**LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE**

[www.swanacalleg.org](http://www.swanacalleg.org)

**LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATES**

PAUL J. YODER

YVETTE GOMEZ AGREDANO

Shaw/Yoder, Inc.

1414 K Street, Suite 320

Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 446-4656

FAX (916) 446-4318

[paul@shawyoder.org](mailto:paul@shawyoder.org)

[yvette@shawyoder.org](mailto:yvette@shawyoder.org)

**CHAIR**

WILL DICKINSON

Placer County

Solid Waste Division

11476 C Avenue

Auburn, CA 95603

(530) 886-4980

[wdickins@placer.ca.gov](mailto:wdickins@placer.ca.gov)

**VICE CHAIR**

MIKE MOHAJER

Los Angeles County

IWM Task Force

P.O. Box 3334

San Dimas, CA 91773

(909) 592-1147

[mikemohajer@yahoo.com](mailto:mikemohajer@yahoo.com)

**TREASURER**

R. SCOTT JOHNSTON

Merced County Public Works

Solid Waste Division

2222 M Street, Room 206

Merced, CA 95340

(209) 385-7388

[lrsj@co.merced.ca.us](mailto:lrsj@co.merced.ca.us)

**SECRETARY**

MARK URQUHART P.E.

EMCON/OWT, Inc.

A SHAW Group Company

1326 North Market Boulevard

Sacramento, CA 95834

(530) 626-4771

[Mark.Urquhart@shawgrp.com](mailto:Mark.Urquhart@shawgrp.com)

# FLOOR ALERT

## OPPOSE—SB 926 (Florez)

May 10, 2005

**TO: ALL SENATORS**

**CC:** The Honorable Dean Florez  
Will Dickinson, Chair, SWANA California Chapters Legislative Task Force  
Mike Urquhart, Secretary, SWANA California Chapters Legislative Task Force

**FROM:** Yvette Gómez Agredano, Legislative Advocate, SWANA California Chapters

**RE: SB 926 (Florez) Sewage Sludge Management – OPPOSE**

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 in opposition of SB 926 (Florez), as amended on May 9, 2005.

The intent of SB 926 appears to provide special authority to Kern County that is beyond the authority enjoyed by other counties in the state. This is an unacceptable precedent. Furthermore, the legislative findings contained in the measure are inaccurate and misleading.

SWANA urges you to take the following into consideration:

- SB 926 ignores the inter-reliance of counties on one another.
- Biosolids are beneficially used in Kern County because Kern County has arid land that can be turned into useful agricultural land, producing crops, such as alfalfa, milo and winter wheat for cattle feed.
- Just as cities in the Los Angeles and Ventura County areas rely on Kern County, likewise Kern County relies on cities like Oxnard to manage hazardous and other wastes, because Kern does not have the facilities needed to do so. (For example, oil brine wastes, high in salt, pass through Oxnard's wastewater treatment plant to the ocean where they are easily absorbed.)
- If Kern County can prohibit the importation of a recyclable material such as biosolids, what other county-by-county restrictions will follow?

Lastly, SB 926 would have a drastic impact on the entities that currently land-apply biosolids to approximately 1% of the agricultural land in Kern County, likely leaving no other alternative but landfill disposal, particularly in the short-term.

**Lastly, SB 926 severely undermines the concept of biosolids recycling, which is essential if California is to beneficially reuse biosolids in a manner similar to what is being done in other progressive regions of the nation.** For these reasons, the California Chapters of SWANA urge you to oppose SB 926 when it is heard on the Senate Floor.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.