

COUNTY OF NEVADA

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Ed Scofield

Supervisor, 2nd District

Email: ed.scofield@co.nevada.ca.us

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: March 12, 2019

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Ed Scofield**

SUBJECT: Resolution in Support of a Statewide Commission on Recycling Markets

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: N/A

BACKGROUND:

The export of recyclable materials is a key component of California's recycling infrastructure. Each year, California exports about a third of the recyclable material it collects. Historically, most of that material—particularly unsorted mixed paper and mixed plastics—went to China for processing and manufacturing into new products. China's recent strict contamination limits and import bans, collectively referred to as National Sword, have led to a stockpiling of materials at California solid waste and recycling facilities and declining global markets for recyclables. China has declared their intent to ban all recyclable material imports by 2020.

Additionally, local governments across California will soon have to comply with new state regulations for organic waste diversion and processing. SB 1383, signed into law by Governor Brown in September 2016, establishes targets to achieve a 50 percent reduction in the level of the statewide disposal of organic waste (including food waste) from the 2014 level by 2020, and a 75 percent reduction by 2025. SB 1383 goes into effect on January 1, 2022 and requires all generators, including residential customers, to source separate organic waste; and requires local jurisdictions to provide a collection service, divert organics to a processing facility, conduct inspections, report, and enforce the requirements. SB 1383 also places the responsibility of providing or identifying sufficient organic waste processing capacity on local jurisdictions. However, it is common knowledge that California does not have sufficient infrastructure capacity to handle the amount of organics proposed under this legislation. Infrastructure required to implement these regulations are expected to cost billions and these facilities are difficult to site, and can take up to ten years to get through the permitting process. This legislation will result in an onerous unfunded mandate to local jurisdictions.

The increased requirements proposed under SB 1383 added to recent changes to international policies and a declining global market value for recyclables has resulted in an issue of statewide concern for the resource recovery industry, local governments, and Californians. As such, the

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California State Association of Counties (CSAC) submitted a letter to Governor Newsom dated January 11, 2019 outlining the aforementioned concerns with the request for the administration to establish a statewide Commission to address these challenges. This resolution echoes CSAC's letter and calls for the Governor to establish a statewide Commission, comprised of state, local and industry representatives, to address these significant challenges.

Therefore, I respectfully request the Board to adopt the attached resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Scofield".

Ed Scofield
District II Supervisor