



A Public Agency

## RETHINKWASTE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2026 at 3:00p.m.

RethinkWaste Administrative Office  
1245 San Carlos Ave. Suite E  
San Carlos, CA 94070

The public may observe/participate in Committee meetings using remote public comment options or attending in person. Committee members shall attend in person unless remote participation is permitted by law.

### TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE IN PERSON

Masking is not required but according to the California Department of Public Health guidelines, people at higher risk for severe illness should consider masking. To help maintain public health and safety, we respectfully request that people NOT attend in-person if they are experiencing symptoms associated with COVID-19 or are otherwise ill and likely contagious (e.g., respiratory illnesses).

To address the Committee on any item – whether on the posted agenda or not – please fill out a Request to Speak Form and submit it to the Board Clerk. Speakers are not required to submit their name or address.

### REMOTE PARTICIPATION

Members of the public may participate in public Agency meetings by logging into the Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81542479527?pwd=QnIvSXZZcW5XTzBJbmVOZjhVNUFPUT09>

Dial in: 1 669 444 9171

Meeting ID: 815 4247 9527

Passcode: 044400

Written public comments for the record may be submitted in advance by 12:00 p.m. on the meeting date by email to: [rethinker@rethinkwaste.org](mailto:rethinker@rethinkwaste.org) and will be made part of the written record but will not be read verbally at the meeting. Written public comments submitted by email should adhere to the following: 1) Clearly indicate the Agenda Item No. or specify “Public” in the Subject Line for items not on the agenda and 2) Include the submitter’s full name. You may also use the raise hand feature on Zoom to enter a verbal public comment.

\*Pursuant to Ralph M. Brown Act, government code section 54953, all votes shall be by roll call if any members of the board of directors are participating by teleconference and/or video conference.

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment

Persons wishing to address the Board on matters NOT on the posted agenda may do so. Each speaker is limited to three minutes. If there are more than five individuals wishing to speak during public comment, the Chairman will draw five speaker cards from those submitted to speak during this time. The balance of the Public Comment speakers will be called upon at the end of the Board Meeting. If the item you are speaking on is not listed on the agenda, please be advised that the Board may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed as allowed under The Brown Act (Government Code Section 54954.2). The Board's general policy is to refer items to staff for attention, or have a matter placed on a future Board agenda for a more comprehensive action or report and formal public discussion and input at that time. *Speakers may also submit comments via email prior to the meeting by sending those comments to [rethinker@rethinkwaste.org](mailto:rethinker@rethinkwaste.org).*

---

#### MEMBER AGENCIES

BELMONT \* BURLINGAME \* EAST PALO ALTO \* FOSTER CITY \* HILLSBOROUGH \* MENLO PARK \* REDWOOD CITY  
\* SAN CARLOS \* SAN MATEO \* COUNTY OF SAN MATEO \* WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT

April 14, 2026

3. **Executive Director’s Report** (*Verbal Update*) p. 3
4. **Approval of Consent Calendar**  
Consent Calendar item(s) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless members of the Board, staff or public request specific items be removed for separate action. *Items removed from the Consent Calendar will be moved to the end of the agenda for separate discussion.*
- A. Approval of the Minutes of March 03, 2026, Legislative Committee Meeting **ACTION p. 7**  
B. Approval of Revised Legislative Committee Meeting Calendar **ACTION p. 13**
5. **Discussion on RethinkWaste’s Co-Sponsored Bill:** p. 17  
A. AB 762 (Irwin and Wilson): Disposable, battery-embedded vapor inhalation device: prohibition.
6. **California Legislative Bill Positions for 2026 and Legislative and Regulatory Updates** p. 21  
A. 2026 Legislative Session Introduced Bills to Track and Take Positions On
7. **Committee Member Comments**
8. **Adjourn**

---

MEMBER AGENCIES

BELMONT \* BURLINGAME \* EAST PALO ALTO \* FOSTER CITY \* HILLSBOROUGH \* MENLO PARK \* REDWOOD CITY  
\* SAN CARLOS \* SAN MATEO \* COUNTY OF SAN MATEO \* WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT

April 14, 2026



A Public Agency

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Agenda Item 3 is a verbal report only at the 04/21/2026  
RethinkWaste Legislative Committee Meeting





**A Public Agency**

# CONSENT CALENDAR

---

**Agenda Item 4**

---



**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**RETHINKWASTE**  
**SOUTH BAYSIDE WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**  
**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**MARCH 03, 2026 – 3:00 p.m.**  
**1245 San Carlos Ave. Suite E, San Carlos, CA 94070**

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call: 3:03**

Member	Present	Absent
Fran Dehn	<b>X</b>	
Jeff Schmidt	<b>X</b>	
Christopher Sturken	<b>X</b>	
Adam Rak	<b>X</b>	

**RethinkWaste Staff:** Julia Au, Joe La Mariana, Jean Savaree, Cyndi Urman, Dolores Molina-Bucio, Karina Hammoud, Oliver Crawford-Shelmadine.

**Others Present:** Noam Elroi, Reed Addis

**Committee Member Virtual Attendance:** Jeff Schmidt, Christopher Sturken, & Fran Dehn.

Board Counsel informed the committee of the vote required to allow committee members to attend the Legislative Committee meeting virtually moving forward.

**2. Approval of virtual attendance for the Legislative Committee**

**Motion:** F. Dehn

**Second:** A. Rak

**Motion Pass:** 4 - 0

Member	Present	Absent
Fran Dehn	<b>X</b>	
Jeff Schmidt	<b>X</b>	
Christopher Sturken	<b>X</b>	
Adam Rak	<b>X</b>	

**3. Public Comment**

Persons wishing to address the Board on matters NOT on the posted agenda may do so. Each speaker is limited to three minutes. If there are more than five individuals wishing to speak during public comment, the Chairman will draw five speaker cards from those submitted to speak during this time. The balance of the Public Comment speakers will be called upon at the end of the Board Meeting. If the item you are speaking on is not listed on the agenda, please be advised that the Board may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed as allowed under The Brown Act (Government Code Section 54954.2). The Board's general policy is to refer items to staff for attention, or have a matter placed on a future Board agenda for a more comprehensive action or report and formal public discussion and input at that time. **Speakers may also submit comments via email prior to the meeting by sending those comments to [rethinker@rethinkwaste.org](mailto:rethinker@rethinkwaste.org).**

N/A

**4. Executive Director’s Report (Verbal Update)**

Executive Director La Mariana shared bill and agency updates with the committee:

- **AB762** left the Assembly and is now in the Senate awaiting committee dates to testify. Adding that staff informed the executive director of a recent fire caused by batteries.
- **Master Plan Steering Committee** with the Board’s approval of the RFP to be released tomorrow, Wednesday 03/04/2026 to 15-16 identified engineering and technical firms.
- **MRF 2.0** RFP was released, and staff is currently in the process of evaluating and recommending a selected contractor and expecting to include it in the agenda for the March Board of Directors meeting.
- **Recology Labor Negotiations** are ongoing with an imminent successful outcome.

**5. Approval of Consent Calendar**

Consent Calendar item(s) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless members of the Board, staff or public request specific items be removed for separate action. *Items removed from the Consent Calendar will be moved to the end of the agenda for separate discussion.*

A. Approval of the Minutes of January 6, 2026, Legislative Committee Meeting

**Motion:** F. Dehn

**Second:** J. Schmidt

**Motion Passed:** 4 – 0 – 0 – 0

Member	Approve	Oppose	Abstain	Absent
Fran Dehn	X			
Jeff Schmidt	X			
Christopher Sturken	X			
Adam Rak	X			

**6. Discussion on RethinkWaste’s Co-Sponsored Bill**

**AB 762 (Irwin and Wilson): Disposable, battery-embedded vapor inhalation device: prohibition.**

EEC Staff, Noam Elroi, shared following bill updates with the committee:

AB 762 made it out of the first house at the start of the year after cannabis was dropped from the scope. Adding that there is a commitment from the author to continue working with the cannabis industry to create a takeback program to reduce vapes in waste bins.

Member Schmidt recommended staff begin to outreach to re-educate mayors and supervisors during this time and volunteered to begin.

EEC Staff, Noam Elroi acknowledged member Schmidt’s efforts and informed members that there is a delay in moving forward with outreach due to referral of senate committees and knowing who to connect with.

Member Schmidt volunteered to begin outreach with all senate committees and inquired with staff if there is approval from the board council to post the landing page.

Board Counsel informed staff and the committee members that they are looking into the matter and will provide confirmation on the posting of the information soon.

Executive Director La Mariana informed the committee of Board Member Speier’s inquiry to initiate local ordinance in support of the bill and inquired if staff have connected with the Board Member.

Staff Au confirmed that agency staff and partnering Californians Against Waste have connected with Board Member Speier and their team regarding the local ordinance.

Member Dehn inquired if Board Member Speier will be reintroducing the ordinance as the originally drafted bill or the updated version where Cannabis is no longer included.

Staff Au confirmed the ordinance provided to Board Member Speier was the originally drafted bill adding that staff will connect with board members staff to discuss further.

Member Sturken inquired if the bill would only cover the county.

Staff Au will work to determine the ordinance coverage.

Member Dehn stated that it would be a great template for cities to reference and create their own ordinance.

## **7. Legislative and Regulatory Updates from EEC and Commission Discussion 2026 Legislative Session Introduced Bills to Track and Take Positions On**

EEC Staff Elroi provided updates on agency supported legislation and newly introduced bills identified for potential agency support, adding that there was a change to the packet provided to the committee where AB 1604 has changed from a bill to support to a bill to watch.

**AB 864** addresses the management of solar photovoltaic modules as hazardous waste to universal waste in California and possibly expanding to a producer responsibility program.

**SB 501** used to address extended producer responsibility program for household hazardous waste and was changed to management of larger detachable batteries (25lbs) as part of the battery extended producer responsibility program.

**SB 936 & SB 758** address the sale of nitrous oxide containers.

Staff Mangini informed the committee of the large cost of disposing the nitrous oxide containers and their ongoing prevalence in the waste stream.

Member Rak inquired on the committee process of determining legislation positions and if there is board approval for the advisory committee decision processes.

Staff Au described the agency process for regulative and legislative platform which is presented to the legislative committee and then presented to the board of directors.

Member Rak expressed concern on the current process not including board approval of legislative decisions and requested board counsel recommendations.

Board Counsel recommended legislative decisions made by the committee be presented to the board of directors as an agenda consent item.

Member Rak recommended the legislative committee meeting be scheduled closer to the board of directors meeting.

Staff Au requested the committee's direction on whether to continue the current process for reviewing letters of support.

Member Rak recommended that letters of support be distributed to committee members for informational purposes and included in the board packet for board members as an informational item to not impact legislative timelines.

Staff Urman recommended committee members determine the best date for the next meeting and motion a vote.

Member Rak recommended the board agenda includes a legislative update which can be informational or an action item if

needed adding that the legislative committee meeting change to Tuesday, April 21, 2026.

EEC Staff Elroi requested clarification on which board meeting the agency will have legislative positions following the legislative calendar.

Staff Au clarified that bills covered in this meeting will be included in the March board agenda and standing decisions can be included in the April board agenda.

EEC Staff Elroi confirmed that EEC staff are available to meet with the legislative committee meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 3:00 PM.

Committee members confirmed their availability for Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 3:00 PM.

**Approval to change of Legislative Committee Meeting from April 7, 2026, to April 21, 2026.**

**Motion:** A. Rak

**Second:** F. Dehn

**Motion Passed:** 4 – 0 – 0 – 0

Member	Approve	Oppose	Abstain	Absent
Fran Dehn	X			
Jeff Schmidt	X			
Christopher Sturken	X			
Adam Rak	X			

**AB 2253** would additionally require the recycled content claim to be based on the actual physical recycled content in the product without the use of certain types of accounting.

**AB 2462** would require the safe return or appropriate disposal of unsafe products to be at no cost to the end consumer, a recycling center, a municipal facility that accepts the product for recycling or disposal, a retailer that sells the product, a permitted solid waste facility, a household hazardous waste collection facility, and a thrift retail store.

**AB 2667** prohibits a person from marketing, promoting, labeling, branding, advertising, distributing, offering for sale, or selling a vape product in this state imitating a product that is not a vape product to conceal the nature of the vape product from parents, teachers, or other adults.

**SB 1180** addresses complying with specified requirements, including, among others, prioritizing programs and projects that benefit communities most burdened by the impacts of plastic pollution and that provide multiple benefits.

**AB 1812** addresses compostable labeling. EEC Staff Elroi informed the committee that the bill's full language has not been included.

Committee members concluded that they prefer AB 1812 be watched and plan to make a decision once its full language is provided.

**SB 54 update**

- Rule making process complete
- 15-day comment period opened, and agency staff submitted comments
- Final regulations are expected soon from the Office of Administrative Law
- Needs assessment from the state is out.
- Producer Responsibility Plan is due mid-year after which will include a comment period where staff expects to submit comments.
- Staff initiated dialogue with the producer responsibility organization and was deferred to wait for the comment period.
- Reimbursement portal has yet to be available for agencies to input investments made to comply with the bill.

Staff Au informed the committee that CalRecycle has officially selected a producer responsibility organization for SB 707, a textiles EPR bill from a previous year.

Member Rak inquired if the committee would like to make a recommendation to the board on the support position on legislation.

**Approval to Recommend all bills for support and watch positions to be included in the next board consent calendar.**

**Motion:** A. Rak

**Second:** F. Dehn

**Motion Passed:** 4 – 0 – 0 – 1

<b>Member</b>	<b>Approve</b>	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Fran Dehn	X			
Jeff Schmidt	X			
Christopher Sturken				X
Adam Rak	X			

**8. Committee Member Comments**

**9. Adjourn: 4:01 PM**





## STAFF REPORT

---

**To:** RethinkWaste Legislative Committee Members  
**From:** Julia Au, Sr. Outreach, Education and Compliance Manager  
**Date:** April 21, 2026 Legislative Committee Meeting  
**Subject:** Approval of Revised Legislative Committee Meeting Calendar

---

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the RethinkWaste Legislative Committee approve a revised Legislative Committee meeting calendar.

### **Summary**

Based on committee feedback at the March 3 Legislative Committee meeting, RethinkWaste staff is recommending changing two future meeting dates for the Legislative Committee for the May and June meetings to the fourth Tuesday of the month at 3 p.m.

### **Analysis**

During the March 3 Legislative Committee meeting, the Committee discussed the need to sync the Legislative Committee meetings closer to the Board Meetings now that the Board will approve the final positions on bills for the agency after being presented to the Legislative Committee. In addition, sometimes positions on bills may need to change at the last minute and having a revised schedule will allow for these changes to happen.

Staff is recommending changing just the May and June Legislative Committee Meetings to the fourth Tuesday of the month at 3 p.m. to May 26 and June 23. Due to the legislative calendar, the August, September, October and December meetings will not change. The September and October meetings were already moved to accommodate the legislative session and other agency meeting calendars. See full revised calendar in Attachment A.

### **Background**

RethinkWaste's Legislative Committee was established in 2021 and has met on several different days and times over the past several years, most recently so meeting on the first Tuesdays of the month at 3 p.m.

### **Attachments:**

Attachment A – 2026 Legislative Committee Meeting Schedule



**SOUTH BAYSIDE WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (RethinkWaste)  
2026 Legislative Committee MEETING SCHEDULE**

Monthly Meetings of the Legislative Committee are held on the Tuesday dates listed below

\*Unless otherwise noted at 3:00PM

Location: (unless otherwise noted on the agenda)

RethinkWaste Administrative Offices  
 1245 San Carlos Ave  
 Suite E  
 San Carlos, CA 94070

January	6	2026
<del>February</del>	<del>3</del> - CANCELED	<del>2026</del>
March	3	2026
April	21	2026
May	26	2026
June	23	2026
July	NO MEETING	2026
August	4	2026
September	11 (Friday)	2026
October	13	2026
November	NO MEETING	2026
December	1	2026



**A Public Agency**

# Discussion on RethinkWaste's Co-Sponsored Bill AB 762





## STAFF REPORT

---

**To:** RethinkWaste Legislative Committee Members  
**From:** Julia Au, Sr. Outreach, Education and Compliance Manager  
**Date:** April 21, 2026 Legislative Committee Meeting  
**Subject:** Discussion on RethinkWaste’s Co-Sponsored Bill AB 762

---

### Recommendation

This staff report is for discussion purposes only.

### Summary

The agency continues to co-sponsor AB 762 (Irwin and Wilson) along with Californians Against Waste, California Product Stewardship Council and California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG), which seeks to ban the sale of disposable vaporizer products in California due to their dangerous embedded lithium-ion batteries. This legislation addresses the alarming environmental, safety, and public health risks posed by these hazardous products and would help protect our contractor’s front-line workers and the environmental and recycling facilities that they work in, such as RethinkWaste’s Shoreway Environmental Center.

AB 762 is currently sitting in the Senate awaiting committee assignment. We expect it to be assigned after newly introduced bills in 2026 have passed their first house deadline, which is May 29.

Staff and our agency lobbyists, Environmental and Energy Consulting (EEC), will provide the most current and available information regarding the bill.





**A Public Agency**

# California Legislative Bill Positions for 2026 & Legislative and Regulatory Updates



## STAFF REPORT

**To:** RethinkWaste Legislative Committee Members  
**From:** Julia Au, Sr. Outreach, Education and Compliance Manager  
**Date:** April 21, 2026 Legislative Committee Meeting  
**Subject:** California Legislative Bill Positions for 2026 and Legislative and Regulatory Updates

**Recommendation**

Staff is requesting the Legislative Committee’s review and recommend approval by the Board of Directors the new legislative bill positions for 2026 and receive regular legislative and regulatory updates.

**Summary**

RethinkWaste has added two new bills to take positions on in addition to the existing bill list.

This staff report also includes Attachment A that includes all letters the agency has signed on to or submitted separately for bills it has taken position on since the last meeting.

**Analysis**

Each bill contains the status, position, notes and the relevant focus area from the Board adopted RethinkWaste 2025-2026 Legislative and Regulatory Platform. This staff report represents the status and bill language as of April 13, 2026. Changes to the bills could happen after the committee packet is published and before the committee meeting on April 21.

**Bill position descriptions**

<b>Sponsor</b>	Actively working on a bill with an Author
<b>Support</b>	Support positions can range from signing joint support letters, submitting our own support letters, testifying in committees, and/or providing input on bill language
<b>Support If Amended</b>	Letters of support with recommended amendments
<b>Watch</b>	Indicates that bill language and details are still evolving and we will continue to watch and provide input and take a position when appropriate
<b>Oppose Unless Amended</b>	Letters of opposition unless the measure includes recommended amendments to address concerns
<b>Oppose</b>	Opposition to bill



## Existing bills with positions:

### [AB 762 \(Irwin\) Disposable, battery-embedded vapor inhalation device: prohibition](#)

This bill would ban the sale of disposable / non-refillable vaporizer products in California with batteries that cannot be removed, fostering a transition to refillable or reusable alternatives that are safer and more sustainable. The bill was amended in January to remove cannabis vapes.

Status: Senate Rules pending referral

RethinkWaste position: Co-sponsor

Notes: This is a two-year bill that is co-sponsored by RethinkWaste, California Product Stewardship Council, Californians Against Waste and California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG)

RethinkWaste 2025-2026 Legislative and Regulatory Platform Focus Area: Extended Producer Responsibility (Toxics and Waste Reduction)

### [AB 864 \(Ward\) Hazardous waste: solar photovoltaic modules](#)

This bill would make the universal waste designation applicable to a solar photovoltaic module that is intended for recycling and cannot otherwise be resold, reused, or refurbished only until the Department of Toxics Substances Control adopts regulations implementing alternative management standards for solar photovoltaic modules. The department will institute a rulemaking for alternative management standards that facilitate greater material recovery. The bill would require the department to adopt the above-referenced federal transfer-based exclusion regulation. The bill would also designate a solar photovoltaic module that can be resold, reused, or refurbished as surplus material.

Status: In Senate

RethinkWaste position: Support

Notes: This is a two-year bill that is co-sponsored California Product Stewardship Council

RethinkWaste 2025-2026 Legislative and Regulatory Platform Focus Area: Extended Producer Responsibility (Toxics and Waste Reduction)

### [AB 1604 \(Stefani\) Product safety: proofs of purchase: intentionally added bisphenols](#)

This bill would, starting on or after January 1, 2027, prohibit manufacturers and businesses from using intentionally added bisphenol A in paper receipts. Starting on January 1, 2028, manufacturers and businesses will be prohibited from using all intentionally added bisphenol chemicals in receipts.

Status: Referred to Appropriations Committee.. Passed Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxics Materials Committee 7-0 on March 10 and passed Judiciary Committee 12-0 on April 7.

RethinkWaste position: Watch

Notes: Sponsored by Californians Against Waste and Breast Cancer Presentation Partners

RethinkWaste 2025-2026 Legislative and Regulatory Platform Focus Area: Extended Producer Responsibility (Toxics and Waste Reduction)

### [AB 1812 \(Aguiar-Curry\) Solid waste: compostable products: regulations](#)



Existing law prohibits a person from selling or offering for sale a product, as defined, that is labeled with the term “compostable” or “home compostable” unless, among others, the product is labeled in a manner that distinguishes the product from a non-compostable product upon reasonable inspection by consumers and to help enable efficient processing by solid waste processing facilities. Existing law authorizes the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to adopt regulations for determining whether products comply with this requirement. This bill would instead require the department to adopt regulations for determining whether products comply with this requirement.

Status: Referred to Appropriations Committee. Passed Assembly Natural Resources Committee 11-0-3 on April 13.

RethinkWaste position: Support

Notes: Sponsored by California Compost Coalition. Coalition letter sent March 31.

RethinkWaste 2025-2026 Legislative and Regulatory Platform Focus Area: Diversion (Organics and Green Waste Diversion)

#### **AB 2253 (Boerner) Solid waste: products: environmental marketing claims**

This bill would expand provisions from plastic food container products to all products. The bill would revise the reference to the Federal Trade Commission Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims to specifically refer to those guides as they read on January 1, 2026. The bill would additionally require documentation that recycled content claim is based on the actual physical recycled content in the production of the product without the use of certain types of accounting. – *Amended April 8*

Status: Referred to Appropriations Committee. Passed Assembly Natural Resources Committee 10-4 on April 6.

RethinkWaste position: Support

Notes: Sponsored by Californians Against Waste. Coalition letter sent March 31.

RethinkWaste 2025-2026 Legislative and Regulatory Platform Focus Area: Economic Development (Market Development for End Products and Green Purchasing)

#### **AB 2462 (Pellerin) Unsafe products: disposal: penalties**

This bill would require the safe return or appropriate disposal of the unsafe product to be at no cost to the end consumer, a recycling center, a municipal facility that accepts the product for recycling or disposal, a retailer that sells the product, a permitted solid waste facility, a household hazardous waste collection facility, and a thrift retail store. This bill would instead authorize the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to administratively impose an administrative penalty on a person in violation of the act of \$2,500 per day or \$5,000 per day if the violation is intentional or knowing, as specified. The bill would authorize the department to refer enforcement to the Department of Toxic Substances Control for unsafe products identified as hazardous waste and would create the Hazardous Product Recall Penalty Account in the State Treasury.

Status: Referred to Appropriations Committee. Passed Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee 5-1-1 on March 24.



RethinkWaste position: Support

Notes: Sponsored by California Product Stewardship Council and California State Association of Counties Coalition letter sent April 6.

RethinkWaste 2025-2026 Legislative and Regulatory Platform Focus Area: Extended Producer Responsibility (Toxics and Waste Reduction)

### **AB 2549 (Zbur) Electronic Waste Recycling Act of 2003: manufacturer notices**

This legislation offers some fixes to address technical issues facing retailers implementing SB 1215 (Newman) – a RethinkWaste co-sponsored bill that was passed in 2022. Specifically, it includes proposing to require universal product codes in manufacturer notices, guarantee 60-day timelines for retailers to act after a manufacturer notice, create a searchable online database, re-align annual notice deadlines, exempt thrift stores, and makes changes to retailer compliance on covered electronic devices or battery-embedded products. – *Amended April 8*

Status: Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee. Hearing set April 14

RethinkWaste position: Watch

Notes: Sponsored by the retailers. Joint concern letter sent April 6.

RethinkWaste 2025-2026 Legislative and Regulatory Platform Focus Area: Extended Producer Responsibility (Toxics and Waste Reduction)

### **AB 2667 (Hadwick) Vape products: household hazardous waste: advertising**

This bill would require, until January 1, 2030, the Department of Toxic Substances Control to evaluate opportunities to increase safety and convenience related to the management and disposal of vape pens confiscated from students by a school, as provided, and identify any recommendations that require future legislative action. The bill would authorize a permanent household hazardous waste collection facility to mechanically disassemble vape pens and devices in a manner that does not result in the unauthorized release of hazardous materials, as specified.

Status: Referred to Business and Professions Committee. Passed Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee 7-0 on March 24.

RethinkWaste position: Support

Notes: Coalition letter sent April 2. One of the co-authors on the bill includes Assemblymember Papan.

RethinkWaste 2025-2026 Legislative and Regulatory Platform Focus Area: Extended Producer Responsibility (Toxics and Waste Reduction)

### **SB 501 (Allen) Responsible Battery Recycling Act of 2022: covered batteries**

This bill was amended in January 2026 to move away from a HHW Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program (which RethinkWaste supported in 2025) and now would make changes to the Responsible Battery Recycling Act (a RethinkWaste co-sponsored bill in 2022) to revise the description of a loose battery. The bill would instead include medium-sized batteries, like for an e-bike or a leaf blower,



and exclude from the definition of a covered battery a battery weighing over 25 pounds and any rechargeable battery weighing over 25 pounds, regardless of the watt-hour rating.

Status: In Assembly Rules pending referral

RethinkWaste position: Support

Notes: This is a two-year bill.

RethinkWaste 2025-2026 Legislative and Regulatory Platform Focus Area: Extended Producer Responsibility (Toxics and Waste Reduction)

### **SB 758 (Umberg) Public health: nitrous oxide**

This bill would expand provisions to prohibit a retailer from selling nitrous oxide in any retail location, subject to certain exceptions. By expanding the definition of an existing crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Status: In Assembly Rules pending referral

RethinkWaste position: Support

Notes: Nitrous oxide tanks are becoming an ever prevalent waste stream we do not accept at our Shoreway facility, but still ends up at the facility and has cost up to \$60 per unit to properly recycle.

RethinkWaste 2025-2026 Legislative and Regulatory Platform Focus Area: Extended Producer Responsibility (Toxics and Waste Reduction)

### **SB 936 (Blakespear & Umberg) Nitrous oxide: sales**

This bill would, except as specifically exempted, prohibit the sale and distribution of a nitrous oxide container that is capable of holding more than 8 grams of nitrous oxide or from which an individual may directly inhale nitrous oxide. The bill would also prohibit the sale and distribution of nitrous oxide that has, or is marketed as having, the taste or smell of any food. The bill would prohibit the sale and distribution of a device that allows an individual to inhale nitrous oxide from the container or hold nitrous oxide for the purposes of inhalation. – Amended April 8

Status: Referred to Appropriations Committee. Passed Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee 11-0 on April 13.

RethinkWaste position: Support

Notes: Nitrous oxide tanks are becoming an ever prevalent waste stream we do not accept at our Shoreway facility, but still ends up at the facility and has cost up to \$60 per unit to properly recycle. Coalition letter sent April 2 for Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee.

RethinkWaste 2025-2026 Legislative and Regulatory Platform Focus Area: Extended Producer Responsibility (Toxics and Waste Reduction)



**SB 1180 (Allen) Plastic Pollution and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act: California Plastic Pollution Mitigation Fund**

This bill outlines a detailed framework on how the California Plastic Pollution Mitigation Fund under SB 54 should be used by requiring each expenditure made upon appropriation from the fund to comply with specified requirements, including, among others, prioritizing programs and projects that benefit communities most burdened by the impacts of plastic pollution and that provide multiple benefits.

Status: Passed Senate Environmental Quality Committee 5-0-2 on April 8

RethinkWaste position: Support

Notes: Letter sent on April 6

RethinkWaste 2025-2026 Legislative and Regulatory Platform Focus Area: Extended Producer Responsibility (Plastic and Packaging) and Funding

**New bills to take position on (in numerical order):**

**SB 1010 (Ashby) Solid waste: Refrigerant and Stewardship and Recovery Act**

This bill establishes an extended producer responsibility (EPR) program for household cooling appliances to help ensure refrigerants and other climate-damaging gases are properly managed at end of life. This bill requires manufacturers to participate in, and fund, a stewardship program that provides convenient, statewide collection and ensures the safe end-of-life management of the covered appliances they produce.

Status: Referred to the Senate Environmental Quality Committee

RethinkWaste position: Recommend Support

Notes: This bill is sponsored by the California Product Stewardship Council and the bill is modeled in structure and content to SB 707 (Textiles EPR passed in 2024)

RethinkWaste 2025-2026 Legislative and Regulatory Platform Focus Area: Extended Producer Responsibility (Toxics and Waste Reduction)

**SB 1031 (Blakespear) Solid waste: compostable products**

This bill requires clear, consistent labeling of “compostable” products to improve sorting and reduce contamination in California’s waste system, prohibits misleading labels like “compostable except in California,” and directs the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment to evaluate the health impacts of degraded compostable plastics and their additives.

Status: Senate Environmental Quality Committee. Set for hearing April 15.

RethinkWaste position: Recommend Support

Notes: None

RethinkWaste 2025-2026 Legislative and Regulatory Platform Focus Area: Diversion (Organics and Green Waste Diversion)

**Attachments:**

Attachment A – Submitted letters



March 31, 2026

The Honorable Isaac Bryan  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Natural Resources  
1021 O Street, Suite 5630  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1812 (Aguiar-Curry) Solid waste: compostable products: regulations SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Bryan,

The undersigned organizations join together in support of AB 1812 (Aguiar-Curry) Solid waste: compostable products: regulations, which would protect California's precious soil and robust composting system from plastic pollution by keeping plastic contamination out of the green bin. "Compostable" plastics do not break down in California's nation-leading compost facilities and instead risk becoming microplastic contamination spread across the State's soils. They should not be labeled compostable.

California composters have built a robust organics recycling system that processes approximately 12 million tons of yard trimmings and food scraps annually, but this system depends on uncontaminated organic waste streams to control costs for ratepayers and produce compost that farmers can use. With current technology and systems, composters cannot receive bioplastics without incurring significant operational burdens and added costs to ratepayers.

The underlying issue is that "compostable" plastics do not break down in California industrial composting systems. The ASTM standards for labeling an item compostable only require that an item 90% biologically degrade after 180 days in very specific conditions. The State's well-developed composting systems fully complete their process in less than half of that time. This means that these products have no chance of fully breaking down in the State's compost system. AB 1812 aligns consumer expectations with the realities of California's composting systems by prohibiting these products from being labeled "compostable."

Because the plastics do not break down, composters must remove *all* plastic contaminants before the composting process. Removing contamination from composting streams already accounts for over 20% of compost production costs, and compostable plastics exacerbate this problem. Because they are indistinguishable from conventional plastics in a high-volume setting, "compostable" plastics cannot be reliably sorted by hand or mechanically. Instead, *all* plastics are removed to protect the quality of the end product – compost. These products also introduce confusion for consumers. A simple rule, such as "no plastics in the green bin," makes it easy for people to know what they can place where. When some plastics are marketed towards the green bin, it increases uncertainty and leads to consumers putting other plastic contaminants in organic waste stream.

All of the increased costs from contamination removal are passed on to everyday trash ratepayers, as well as municipalities. A significant part of composters' revenue comes from charging a fee to take ratepayers' organic waste. If the composters must spend more to sort out this plastic contamination, that cost is passed to the generators — everyone that pays a trash bill, including local governments.

Consumers who opt for compostable products are willing to pay a premium for the peace of mind that the product is being composted. However, when they purchase bioplastics labeled as compostable, they are simultaneously contributing to a contamination issue that they also pay to address via garbage rates.

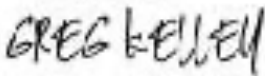
This plastic contamination also threatens availability of the high-quality product that California's agricultural market depends on. Farmers purchase two-thirds of the compost produced in California and rely on National Organic Program (NOP) certification to guarantee quality and purity. Organic farmers rely on NOP certification to protect their status as Certified Organic growers. These standards ensure the integrity of organic agricultural products, protecting consumers, the environment, and the organic market from contamination. They dictate compost production, input materials, and documentation, preventing crop, soil, and water contamination. Plastics of any kind, including "compostable" bioplastics, are prohibited.

Allowing bioplastics in compost jeopardizes the relationships that have been developed between growers and composters. If California composters cannot produce a pure product because they must include bioplastics, growers will have to decide whether to procure from out of state or not use compost at all. This would jeopardize the composting industry, as well as the billions of dollars in public and private investments in composting infrastructure and the state's 75% organic waste diversion goal in SB 1383 (Lara, Ch. 395, Statutes of 2016).

Additionally, the current framework does not provide concrete enough direction for the makers of bioplastics. It is currently unclear exactly how much longer they will be able to market their products as compostable. AB 1812 makes clear that they should make all plastic items recyclable and make compostable products out of plant fiber.

The signatories listed below support AB 1812 as a necessary step to keep plastics out of the compost stream, safeguard agricultural end markets, and ensure California's composting system continues to deliver environmental and economic benefits statewide. We respectfully request an Aye vote on AB 1812.

Sincerely,



**Greg Kelley**  
General Manager  
Napa Recycling & Waste Services,  
Northern Recycling, LLC



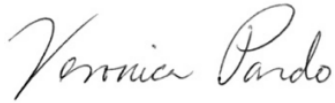
**Jackie Nuñez**  
Founder  
The Last Plastic Straw



**Michael Caprio**  
Director Government Affairs - CA  
Republic Services



**Laura Anthony**  
President  
Zero Waste San Diego



**Veronica Pardo**  
Executive Director  
Resource Recovery Coalition of California



**Julia Mangin**  
Director of Sustainability & Government Affairs  
Recology



**Christina Pestoni**  
Director Government Affairs California  
Waste Connections



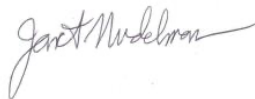
**Joanne Brasch**  
Assistant Director  
California Product Stewardship Council



**Leslie Lukacs**  
Executive Director  
Zero Waste Sonoma



**Kimberly Anderson**  
Sustainability Analyst  
City of San Leandro



**Janet Nudelman**  
Sr. Director of Program and Policy  
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners



**Katya Forsyth**  
Executive Director  
Association of Compost Producers

**Felipe Melchor**  
General Manager  
ReGen Monterey

**Christine Wolfe**  
Director of Government Affairs, California, Hawaii,  
and Nevada  
WM

**Justin Wilcock**  
COO  
Marin Sanitary Service

**Joe LaMariana**  
Executive Director  
RethinkWaste

**Alex Braicovich**  
Senior Vice President, Environmental Services  
CR&R Environmental

**Timothy Burroughs**  
Executive Director  
StopWaste



March 31, 2026

Assemblymember Isaac Bryan, Chair  
 Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
 1020 N Street, Room 164  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 2253 (Boerner): Deceptive Recycled Content Claims – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Bryan,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write in strong support of AB 2253, which would protect consumers from deceptive recycled content claims

by prohibiting companies from using misleading recycled content “credit” schemes and other accounting gimmicks to advertise recycled content when none is physically present in the product.

California has made recycled content a central pillar of its efforts to reduce waste and strengthen recycling markets. Requiring manufacturers to use recycled material in products like plastic bottles, packaging, paper, and glass helps ensure steady demand for materials collected through curbside and other recycling programs. That market demand keeps valuable materials out of landfills, reduces reliance on virgin resources, and sustains recycling facilities and jobs across the state.

In recent years, however, some plastics and consumer product companies have increasingly turned to recycled content credit schemes or accounting gimmicks rather than using actual recycled material in their products. Under these systems – often referred to as mass balance, free allocation, or book-and-claim accounting – companies can purchase credits associated with debatably recycled material from elsewhere in the global supply chain or use convoluted accounting methods that generate credits untethered from recycled material.

In 2024, the California Attorney General’s Office filed suit against ExxonMobil, alleging that the company’s recycled content program amounted to deceptive marketing. According to the complaint, the so-called “certified circular polymers” were promoted as delivering meaningful environmental benefits or containing plastic waste, when in reality the claims were false or misleading. At the federal level, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency updated its Safer Choice standards during the Biden Administration to require that recycled content be calculated “by weight,” a change that effectively bars the use of credit-based accounting schemes.

Overinflated recycled content claims not only mislead consumers, but also penalize businesses that are genuinely investing in recycled materials and supporting California recyclers. Through these schemes, companies can purchase inexpensive and questionable credits generated outside of California or even the United States, allowing them to sidestep and disadvantage in-state recyclers that have invested millions of dollars in infrastructure to physically process and recycle materials. This undermines demand for real recycled content within California and threatens the viability of the state’s recycling

system, which depends on stable markets for materials that are actually collected and reprocessed.

Consumers should be able to trust the labels they see on store shelves. When companies use credit schemes and accounting gimmicks to inflate recycled content claims without actually increasing the amount of recycled material in their products, it undermines that trust, misleads the public and disadvantages California recyclers. AB 2253 ensures that recycled content claims reflect the actual materials used in products, restores integrity to the marketplace, and protects consumers' right to make informed, environmentally responsible purchasing decisions.

For these reasons, we are in strong support of AB 2253.

Sincerely,



Kayla Robinson  
Legislative Director  
**Californians Against Waste**



Katie McCammon  
Co-Executive Director  
**350 Sacramento**



Susan Keefe  
Director Southern  
California  
**Beyond Plastics**



Shannon Olivieri Hovis  
Chief Strategy Officer  
**California Environmental  
Voters**



Shirley Freriks  
Lead  
**WasteNOT/Nevada  
County Climate Action  
Now**



Thomas R. Fox  
Senior Legislative  
Counsel  
**Center for Environmental  
Health**



Cheryl Auger  
President  
**Ban Single-Use Plastic (Ban  
SUP)**



Andria Ventura  
Legislative and Policy  
Director  
**Clean Water Action**



Suzanne Hume  
Educational Director &  
Founder  
**CleanEarth4Kids.org**



Martin Bourque  
Executive Director  
**Ecology Center**



Tevin Hamilton  
Coalition Coordinator  
**Environmental Justice  
Communities Against  
Plastics (EJCAP)**



Sirine Rached  
Senior Policy Advisor  
**Global Alliance for  
Incinerator Alternatives  
(GAIA)**



Dennessa Atiles  
Organizer  
**Indivisible CA: StateStrong**



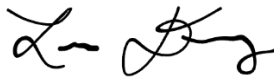
Nona Chai  
Program Coordinator  
**Just Transition Alliance**



Kirstie Pecci  
Executive Director  
**Just Zero**



Melissa Sparks-Kranz  
Legislative Advocate  
**League of California Cities**



Leah Dunlevy  
Digital Communications  
Manager  
**Pacific Environment**




Maro Kakoussian  
Director of Climate and  
Health  
**Physicians for Social  
Responsibility-Los  
Angeles**



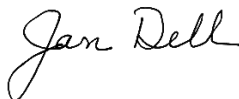
Dianna Cohen  
Co-Founder & Chief Vision  
Officer  
**Plastic Pollution Coalition**



Michael Caprio  
Director Government  
Affairs - CA  
**Republic Services**



Jennifer Savage  
California Policy  
Associate Director  
**Surfrider Foundation**



Jan Dell  
Chemical Engineer  
**The Last Beach Cleanup**



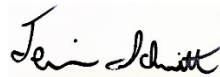
Jackie Nuñez  
Founder  
**The Last Plastic Straw**



Thomas Helme  
Co-Founder/Co-Director  
**Valley Improvement  
Projects (VIP)**



Janice Schroeder  
Core Member  
**West Berkeley Alliance for  
Clean Air and Safe Jobs**



Tevin Schmitt  
Watershed Scientist  
**Wishtoyo Foundation**



Laura Anthony  
President  
**Zero Waste San Diego**



Jenn Engstrom  
State Director  
**California Public Interest  
Research Group (CALPIRG)**



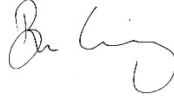
Yayoi Koizumi  
Founder  
**Zero Waste Ithaca**



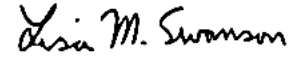
Chris Sparnicht  
Program Manager  
**Save the Albatross  
Coalition**



Miriam Gordon  
Reuse Director  
**Story of Stuff Project**



Ben Eichenberg  
Senior Staff Attorney  
**San Francisco  
Baykeeper**



Lisa Swanson  
Policy Chair  
**Climate Reality Project  
Orange County**



Felipe Melchor  
General Manager  
**ReGen Monterey**



Christy Zamani  
Executive Director  
**Day One**



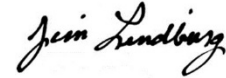
Stuart Wood PhD  
Executive Director  
**Sustainable Claremont**



Judy Sorey  
Volunteer and Legislative  
Advocate  
**350 Bay Area Action**



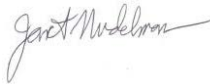
Jorge Rivera  
Executive Co-Director  
**Healing and Justice  
Center**




Jim Lindburg  
Legislative Consultant  
**Friends Committee on  
Legislation of CA**



David Diaz  
Executive Director  
**Active San Gabriel Valley**



Janet Nudelman  
Sr. Director of Program  
and Policy  
**Breast Cancer  
Prevention Partners**



Janet Cox  
CEO  
**Climate Action  
California**



Peggy Ann Berry  
Executive Director  
**Between the Waters**



Joe La Mariana  
Executive Director  
**RethinkWaste**



April 6, 2026

The Honorable Buffy Wicks  
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 8140  
Sacramento, CA 95814



Scan to sign the coalition letter

Submitted via Position Letter Portal

**RE: Recalled Products Update to AB 1860 (Huffman, 2008) – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Wicks,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we support **AB 2462 (Pellerin)** which updates California’s Product Recall Safety and Protection Act. The Product Recall Safety and Protection Act protects consumers and creates clear standards for manufacturers to follow for recalled and defective products. Unfortunately, due to a lack of enforcement and transparency, recalled items end up in reuse, recycling, or other solid waste programs, putting consumers, businesses, and local government at risk.

As required by AB 1860 (Huffman, 2008), when the Federal Consumer Product Safety Commission issues a product recall, the manufacturer of that product is responsible for providing

consumers and retailers with a means to return the recalled product at no additional cost. However, the law didn't account for consumers and retailers who instead send the products to recycling or waste collection sites or secondhand retailers, in many instances at the direction of the manufacturer. Current law also does not account for the cost to local governments, public entities, and secondhand retailers of receiving recalled products and properly managing them. Seventeen years after the passage of AB 1860, recalled products continue to end up at public collection sites and resale donation sites, becoming a financial and logistical burden for those program operators.

In 2025 alone, there were a total of 422 individual product recalls wherein the Federal Consumer Product Safety Commission deemed these covered products unsafe for consumers. This represented over 34 million recalled units. Of these recalled units, just under 25 million required a refund and/or replacement by the manufacturer. The remaining 9 million were offered a repair part, if the consumer chose to request one.

For example, Anker issued a recall of around 1.5 million of its Power Core power banks due to serious fire concerns. Instead of being returned to the manufacturer, many of these units ended up at local government solid waste and recycling facilities. Damaged products, such as these recalled batteries, require special handling for the safety of the workers and facilities, resulting in increased labor and costs. For example, the cost of properly packaging a recalled battery power pack for return to the manufacturer ranges from \$3.37 - \$4.20 per unit, or around 10 times the cost of recycling non-recalled battery power packs. During calendar year 2025, nearly 3.4 million recalled units were lithium-ion battery related, representing 13.6% of the number of units recalled under a refund and/or replace remedy. That 13.6% of units spanned 36 different products.

Further, secondhand retailers incur costs and risk of fines if a recalled product ends up at a resale donation site rather than being effectively taken back by the manufacturer. As a result of the sheer number of recalled products that get inadvertently donated to secondhand retailers, many of these retailers have instituted robust training and identification programs to ensure these recalled products do not get reinserted back into commerce. These identification programs have resulted in high costs being absorbed by these secondhand retailers for items that cannot just be landfilled because of their level of hazard or toxicity.

This bill would add local governments and secondhand retailers to the list of entities able to return a recalled product to the manufacturer at no cost to that entity. The bill would also increase the civil penalties for violations and provide the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery with clear enforcement authority.

For these reasons, we support **AB 2462** and appreciate your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Doug Kobold, Executive Director  
California Product Stewardship  
Council



Jordan Wells, Legislative Advocate  
California State Association of Counties



Phoebe Schenker, Executive Director  
Reuse Alliance



Tony Hackett, Policy Associate  
Californians Against Waste



Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director/CEO  
National Stewardship Action Council



Melissa Sparks-Kranz, Legislative Advocate  
League of California Cities



Suzanne Hume, Educational Director &  
Founder  
CleanEarth4Kids.org



Julia Mangin, Director of Sustainability &  
Government Affairs  
Recology



John Kennedy, Senior Policy Advocate  
Rural County Representatives of CA



Ramesh Srinivasan, Founder & CEO  
Eco-Catalyst



Susy Borlido, Co-Executive Director  
Sustainable Works

Patrick Gibbs

Patrick Gibbs, Executive Director  
Landbell USA

Ryan Klein

Ryan Klein, Director of Operations  
EkoLinq

Leslie Lukacs

Leslie Lukacs, Executive Director  
Zero Waste Sonoma

Joe LaMariana

Joe LaMariana, Executive Director  
RethinkWaste



April 6, 2026

The Honorable Damon Connolly  
Chair, Assembly Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 171  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 2549 (Zbur) E-Waste Recycling Act of 2003: manufacturer notice – CONCERNS**

Dear Chair Connolly,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, including Californians Against Waste, the California Product Stewardship Council, RethinkWaste, and the Rural County Representatives of California, we write to respectfully express our concerns about AB 2549 (Zbur), which would make adjustments and add exemptions to the state's recently expanded Covered Electronic Waste (CEW) Recycling Program.

The four signatories played an instrumental role in the passage of SB 1215 (Newman, 2022). This legislation expanded the Electronic Waste Recycling Act of 2003 to include products with embedded batteries in the CEW Recycling Program. Its passage was the culmination of a multi-year effort to address the growing influx of products containing lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries that pose significant fire risks to recycling facilities and collection trucks because the batteries are not removable by consumers. Stakeholders spent over five years working with stakeholders to design a program that maximizes safe collection and management. California's solution to loose and embedded batteries (which was codified in both SB 1215 and AB 2440) has served as a national model.

We appreciate the author's work to address technical issues facing retailers implementing SB 1215 through AB 2549, including proposing to require universal product codes in manufacturer notices, guarantee 60-day timelines for retailers to act after a manufacturer notice, create a searchable online database, re-align annual notice deadlines, and exempt thrift stores. These changes would provide effective adjustments to improve implementation of this important program.

While we support the above technical adjustments, we have concerns with the amendments that create loopholes in enforcement and product coverage, which we've detailed below:

1. **The proposed “safe harbor” provision encourages a “don’t ask, don’t tell” approach that actively discourages compliance.**

The proposed bill adds a clause stating that “a retailer shall not be deemed to have actual knowledge of any covered electronic device or battery-embedded product waste fee until 60 business days after a retailer receives the notice from the manufacturer or distributor.” In practice, retailers are often the first point of entry for these products into California, while many manufacturers and distributors operate outside the state. By delaying retailers’ responsibility until they receive a notice, this provision removes any incentive for them to actively coordinate with manufacturers to ensure compliance with SB 1215.

As a result, manufacturers could choose not to register, leaving retailers legally insulated and creating significant gaps in compliance, oversight, and enforcement, undermining the effectiveness of the program and putting public safety and recycling objectives at risk.

This also creates an uneven playing field between leading manufacturers who have properly registered with CalRecycle and competitors (often from overseas) who ignore California’s regulatory mandates. In effect, this punishes good actors.

2. **While we remain neutral on modest extensions to compliance timelines for discount stores, we have serious concerns with proposals to exempt these retailers entirely.**

SB 1215 was enacted to address a growing and well-documented public safety and environmental risk: the improper disposal of Li-ion batteries embedded in consumer electronics. When discarded in the regular waste stream, these batteries pose significant fire hazards to recycling facilities, collection vehicles, and landfills. Exempting discount stores from coverage would create substantial gaps in the program, undermining the very purpose of SB 1215.

These stores account for a meaningful share of consumer electronics sales, many of which contain inexpensive, but equally hazardous, Li-ion batteries. Excluding them would leave a large portion of batteries uncovered and unaccounted for, creating a “free-rider” problem, shifting the costs of safe management, and increasing the likelihood that these products go uncollected.

We look forward to working with the author and the committee to address these concerns and would be pleased to remove our opposition if the bill is amended accordingly.

Sincerely,



Kayla Robinson, Legislative Director  
Californians Against Waste



Joanne Brasch, PhD, Assistant Director  
California Product Stewardship Council



Joe La Mariana, Executive Director  
RethinkWaste



John Kennedy, Senior Policy Advocate  
Rural County Representatives of California



April 2, 2026

The Honorable Marc Berman  
 Chair, Assembly Business & Professions Committee  
 1020 N Street, Rm 379  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 2667 (Hadwick) – SUPPORT  
 As Introduced February 20, 2026**

Dear Chair Berman,

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California, the League of California Cities (Cal Cities), Zero Waste Marin, Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority, National Stewardship Action Council (NSAC), California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC), Los Angeles Unified School District, Californians Against Waste, Resource Recovery Coalition of California, Rural Counties Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority, Republic Services, Recology, Western Placer Waste Management Authority, the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), the County of Santa Barbara, StopWaste, RethinkWaste, Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) California Chapters, and Parents Against Vaping (PAVe) we are pleased to support Assembly Bill 2667 (Hadwick) regarding vapes.

Assembly Bill 2667 seeks to protect children, young adults, and the public by: 1) Banning disguised vapes and vapes containing video display devices, 2) Providing an easier regulatory pathway for schools to properly dispose of vapes confiscated from students, and 3) Improving the safe collection, management, and proper disposal of vapes by local household hazardous waste (HHW) collection facilities.

Vapes are ubiquitous, commonly encountered in the waste stream, and must be managed as hazardous waste because they contain residual chemicals, batteries, and electronic components. Vapes create real public health and safety risks when disguised or improperly disposed. Local government household hazardous waste (HHW) collection programs are intended to provide safe and convenient ways for residents and small generators to dispose of hazardous wastes like vapes.

### **Disguised Vapes and Video Game Vapes**

Vapes are increasingly designed and marketed to appeal to minors and young adults - often in ways that are deceptive or intended to increase the level of addiction. Some vapes now contain integrated video games that are intended to increase the user's interaction with the device. Other vapes are manufactured to be nearly indistinguishable from common school supplies like highlighters and markers or household items like key fobs, watches, and even hoodies.

Disguised vapes are harder for educators to detect and also pose heightened fire risks for collection trucks and solid waste facilities. This is because vapes contain batteries that can explode violently and quickly cause massive amounts of damage. By being nearly indistinguishable from ordinary consumer goods, disguised vapes are much more likely to avoid detection and make their way into recycling facilities and landfills, which significantly increases the risk of compaction and fire.

*By banning the sale of disguised vapes and video game vapes, AB 2667 will help protect children, promote school safety, and reduce the risk of vape-caused fires.*

### **Vapes Confiscated by Schools**

Schools often confiscate vapes that students bring from home, with some teachers reporting drawers full of devices that they don't know how to dispose. While the student or parent can dispose of the vape as HHW at a HHW collection facility, schools are not considered "households" and often generate too much hazardous waste to be able to use local HHW collection facilities. As a hazardous waste, there are few transporters and disposal opportunities available, which means it can be very expensive to properly manage and dispose of the contraband.

To address this problem, *AB 2667 directs the Department of Toxic Substances Control to evaluate opportunities to increase the safety and convenience for managing vapes confiscated from students by a school.* Schools and local governments need clear, implementable, and cost-effective solutions from the state for how to manage this growing waste stream.

**HHW Collection Facility Management of Vapes**

Vapes include batteries, circuitry, and fluid cannisters, all of which have different hazardous traits. As such, they can be extremely expensive for local HHW programs to manage, with costs often reaching \$350 for a 5-gallon bucket. While the batteries and circuitry have value and are recyclable, the fluid canister is oftentimes considered acutely hazardous waste. Vapes could be managed much more cost effectively if HHW collection facilities were authorized to safely disassemble them, as the cartridge (which is often the most expensive to manage) could be separated from the batteries and circuitry and each component could be managed separately. This approach would allow far greater system efficiencies and significantly drive down program costs.

AB 2667 allows HHW collection facilities to safely disassemble vapes after consultation with local environmental health and fire agencies, provided the personnel receive proper training and the activities do not result in the unauthorized release of hazardous materials. AB 2667 merely authorizes HHW collection facilities to disassemble vapes if they believe it will reduce program costs. As such, AB 2667 could reduce local government HHW management costs and open the door for more convenient vape disposal opportunities.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support AB 2667 and respectfully request your “aye” vote when this measure is heard before your committee. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



JOHN KENNEDY  
Rural County Representatives of California  
Senior Policy Advocate  
[jkennedy@rcrcnet.org](mailto:jkennedy@rcrcnet.org)



MELISSA SPARKS-KRANZ  
League of California Cities  
Legislative Advocate  
[msparkskranz@calcities.org](mailto:msparkskranz@calcities.org)



JOANNE BRASCH  
California Product Stewardship Council  
Director of Advocacy and Outreach  
[joanne@calpsc.org](mailto:joanne@calpsc.org)



HEIDI SANBORN  
National Stewardship Action Council  
Executive Director and CEO  
[Heidi@nsaction.us](mailto:Heidi@nsaction.us)



SASHA HORWITZ  
Los Angeles Unified School District



KIMBERLY SCHEIBLY  
Zero Waste Marin

The Honorable Marc Berman  
Assembly Bill 2667  
April 2, 2026  
Page 4

Legislative Advocate  
[sasha.horwitz@lausd.net](mailto:sasha.horwitz@lausd.net)



TEDD WARD  
Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority  
Director  
[tedd@recycledelnorte.ca.gov](mailto:tedd@recycledelnorte.ca.gov)



TONY HACKETT  
Californians Against Waste  
Policy Associate  
[tony@cawrecycles.org](mailto:tony@cawrecycles.org)



STACI HEATON  
Rural Counties Environmental Services JPA  
Deputy Executive Director  
[sheaton@rcrcnet.org](mailto:sheaton@rcrcnet.org)

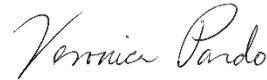


SCOTT SCHOLZ  
Western Placer Waste Management Authority  
General Manager  
[SScholz@wpwma.ca.gov](mailto:SScholz@wpwma.ca.gov)



ELIZABETH ESPINOSA  
County of Santa Barbara  
Legislative Advocate  
[ehe@hbeadvocacy.com](mailto:ehe@hbeadvocacy.com)

Executive Director  
[Meilin.Tsao@MarinCounty.gov](mailto:Meilin.Tsao@MarinCounty.gov)



VERONICA PARDO  
Resource Recovery Coalition of California  
Executive Director  
[veronica@resourcecoalition.org](mailto:veronica@resourcecoalition.org)



MIKE CAPRIO  
Republic Services  
Director of Government Affairs - CA  
[MCaprio@republicservices.com](mailto:MCaprio@republicservices.com)



JULIA MANGIN  
Recology  
Director of Sustainability & Government  
Affairs  
[JMangin@recology.com](mailto:JMangin@recology.com)



DOROTHY JOHNSON  
Association of California School  
Administrators  
Legislative Advocate  
[djohnson@ACSA.org](mailto:djohnson@ACSA.org)



DR. MONICA WILSON, Ph.D  
Parents Against Vaping (PAVe)  
Regional Director – Education and Advocacy  
[monica@parentsagainstvaping.org](mailto:monica@parentsagainstvaping.org)

The Honorable Marc Berman  
Assembly Bill 2667  
April 2, 2026  
Page 5



JOE LAMARIANA  
RethinkWaste  
Executive Director  
[jlamariana@rethinkwaste.org](mailto:jlamariana@rethinkwaste.org)



TIMOTHY BURROUGHS  
StopWaste  
Executive Director



DYLAN HOFFMAN  
SWANA California Chapters  
Legislative Advocate  
[hoffman@syaspartners.com](mailto:hoffman@syaspartners.com)

cc: The Honorable Marc Berman, Chair, Assembly Business and Professions Committee  
Members of the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions  
The Honorable Juan Alanis, California State Assembly  
Robert Sumner, Chief Consultant, Assembly Business and Professions Committee  
Bill Lewis, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus



Sustainability in Action **Recology**



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SANITATION DISTRICTS**  
*Converting Waste Into Resources*



April 2, 2026

The Honorable Aisha Wahab  
Chair, Senate Business, Professions & Economic Development Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 3320  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 936 (Blakespear) - SUPPORT  
As Introduced January 29, 2026**

Dear Chair Wahab:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), the National Stewardship Action Council (NSAC), the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC), Republic Services, RethinkWaste, Recology, Californians Against Waste, the Resource Recovery Coalition of California (RRCC), Western Placer Waste Management Authority (WPWMA), Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority (Del Norte SWMA), the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) California Chapters, StopWaste, and Zero Waste Marin, we are pleased to support Senate Bill 936 (Blakespear), banning the sale of nitrous oxide for illicit purposes.

Senate Bill 936 bans the sale of nitrous oxide, which is widely used as an illicit recreational inhalant. Aside from serious and sobering public health and safety impacts

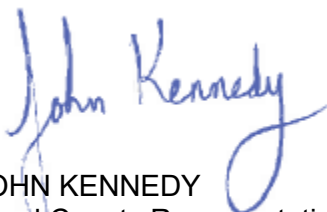
associated with its illicit use as a party drug, large nitrous oxide cylinders are a growing and expensive waste management problem.

Local agencies are responsible for the collection, processing, recycling and disposal of solid waste, including the operation of local household hazardous waste (HHW) collection programs. Local agencies often contract with solid waste enterprises to provide these services. These programs typically offer residents free drop-off of HHW; however, the cost to manage some of the waste streams is significant and puts serious financial pressure on both the programs and local governments that operate them. While some consumers properly dispose of nitrous oxide cylinders at the local HHW collection facility, others are found in recycling carts because residents believe their metal content makes them recyclable. These must be diverted to the local HHW facilities and managed as HHW. The cost for local governments to manage nitrous oxide cylinders exceeds the initial purchase price that consumers pay at the point of sale. While large whippets can be purchased for \$40-\$70 each, they typically cost local agencies \$70-\$120 each to manage. These costs are not sustainable.

Local governments and the solid waste industry have no control over what products are introduced into the marketplace and for which we will ultimately be responsible for management and disposal. By banning the sale of large nitrous oxide containers, SB 936 will significantly reduce cost pressures and management challenges for local solid waste programs and their operators.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support SB 936 and respectfully request your "aye" vote when this measure is heard before your committee. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



JOHN KENNEDY  
Rural County Representatives of California  
Senior Policy Advocate  
[jkennedy@rccrcnet.org](mailto:jkennedy@rccrcnet.org)



JOANNE BRASCH, PhD  
California Product Stewardship Council  
Director of Advocacy and Outreach  
[joanne@calpsc.org](mailto:joanne@calpsc.org)



HEIDI SANBORN  
National Stewardship Action Council  
Executive Director/CEO  
[heidi@nsaction.us](mailto:heidi@nsaction.us)



KIMBERLY SCHEIBLY  
Zero Waste Marin  
Executive Director  
[Meilin.Tsao@MarinCounty.gov](mailto:Meilin.Tsao@MarinCounty.gov)

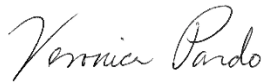
The Honorable Aisha Wahab  
Senate Bill 936  
April 2, 2026  
Page 3



MIKE CAPRIO  
Republic Services  
Director Government Affairs – CA  
[MCaprio@republicservices.com](mailto:MCaprio@republicservices.com)



TONY HACKETT  
Californians Against Waste  
Policy Associate  
[tony@cawrecycles.org](mailto:tony@cawrecycles.org)



VERONICA PARDO  
Resource Recovery Coalition of California  
Executive Director  
[veronica@resourcecoalition.org](mailto:veronica@resourcecoalition.org)



ROBERT C. FERRANTE  
Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
Chief Engineer and General Manager



SCOTT SCHOLZ  
Western Placer Waste Management Authority  
General Manager  
[SScholz@wpwma.ca.gov](mailto:SScholz@wpwma.ca.gov)



TEDD WARD  
Del Norte SWMA  
Director  
[tedd@recycledelnorte.ca.gov](mailto:tedd@recycledelnorte.ca.gov)



JULIA MANGIN  
Recology  
Director of Sustainability & Government Affairs  
[JMangin@recology.com](mailto:JMangin@recology.com)



JOE LAMARIANA  
RethinkWaste  
Executive Director  
[ilamariana@rethinkwaste.org](mailto:ilamariana@rethinkwaste.org)



DYLAN HOFFMAN  
SWANA California Chapters  
Legislative Advocate  
[hoffman@syaslpnpartners.com](mailto:hoffman@syaslpnpartners.com)



TIMOTHY BURROUGHS  
StopWaste  
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Catherine Blakespear, Member of the California State Senate

The Honorable Aisha Wahab  
Senate Bill 936  
April 2, 2026  
Page 4

The Honorable Thomas Umberg, Member of the California State Senate  
The Honorable Juan Alanis, Member of the California State Assembly  
Members of the Senate Business, Professions & Economic Development  
Committee  
Sarah Mason, Staff Director, Senate Business, Professions & Economic  
Development Committee  
Ryan Eisberg, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus



A Public Agency

April 6, 2026

The Honorable Catherine Blakespear
Chair, Senate Committee on Environmental Quality
1021 O Street, Suite 3230
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 1180 (Allen) –Plastic Pollution Mitigation Fund

Dear Chair Blakespear:

On behalf of RethinkWaste, I respectfully request your AYE vote on SB 1180 (Allen) establishes detailed spending requirements and guidelines for the California Plastic Pollution Mitigation Fund (Mitigation Fund).

RethinkWaste is a joint powers authority of eleven public agencies (Belmont, Burlingame, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, Redwood City, San Carlos, San Mateo, the County of San Mateo and West Bay Sanitary District) in San Mateo County. We serve approximately 428,000 residents and 11,000 businesses, leading in the delivery of innovative waste reduction and recycling programs since our formation in 1982. Bolstering the circular economy and reducing waste to landfills is at the core of our purpose and mission.

RethinkWaste has been actively engaged in various efforts to reduce waste going to landfill and polluting our environment, from embedded batteries and food waste to the ongoing conversation regarding SB 54 (Allen, 2022.) We appreciate the need for a well detailed framework on how the Mitigation Fund should be used. While current law guides the percentages of the fund that must be expended to monitor and reduce the historical and current environmental public health impacts of plastics, the additional guidelines proposed by SB 1180 provide additional transparency, accountability, as well as expectations for implementation agencies.

SB 1180 (Allen) would help ensure SB 54 Mitigation Funds are expended in a transparent, equitable and accountable manner. RethinkWaste requests your support on SB 1180.

Sincerely,

Joe La Mariana
Executive Director

Cc: The Honorable Ben Allen

MEMBER AGENCIES: