



August 29, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1021 O Street, Ninth Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1985 (R. Rivas) Recovered Organic Waste Product Procurement Targets –  
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the undersigned organization, we urge your signature of AB 1985 (Rivas), which would assist local governments implementing the state's organic waste diversion targets and allow time for markets to develop for organic waste products.

Organics like food scraps, yard trimmings, paper, and cardboard make up half of what Californians dump in landfills and emit 20% of the state's methane. In a critical effort to reduce methane and other short-lived climate pollutant emissions, California set organic waste diversion targets of 50% by 2020 and 75% by 2025 (SB 1383, Lara, 2016). To drive infrastructure investment and create demand for organic waste products, the SB 1383 regulations required cities and counties by January 1, 2022, to procure a specific quantity of organic waste products based on their population.

Jurisdictions can fulfill these annual procurement targets by procuring any combination of organic waste products such as compost, mulch, or renewable energy. These organic waste products offer benefits to local communities by improving soil and air quality, creating green jobs to help the economy, and support local climate initiatives (i.e., Climate Action Plans).

As jurisdictions ramp up their organic waste collection programs, many cities and counties are struggling to meet their procurement targets due to a limited amount of organic waste infrastructure across the state. In many cases, local governments also struggle to connect with end markets for the organic waste they do process. Jurisdictions are seeking out unique and creative pathways to help them achieve these targets that can simultaneously vitalize a growing organic waste recycling market.

We would like to acknowledge that there are still outstanding challenges related to SB 1383's procurement requirements that we've raised with the Administration, such as developing a framework for allowing out-of-state facilities to process procurement-compliant materials and a strategy for supporting the recovery of excess edible food for human consumption. While AB 1985 did not address all of our challenges, we appreciate the Administration's commitment to work on them in the near term.

AB 1985 will provide a necessary statutory change to assist local governments in achieving their procurement targets by phasing in the requirements while markets and infrastructure continue to develop.

For these reasons, we urge you to sign AB 1985 (Rivas). If you have any questions regarding this legislation, please contact Kayla Robinson ([kayla@caleec.com](mailto:kayla@caleec.com)).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe La Mariana". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joe" being the most prominent.

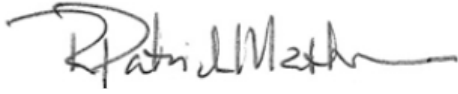
Joe La Mariana, Executive Director  
RethinkWaste

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Derek Dolfie". The signature is bold and stylized, with the first name "Derek" being the most prominent.

Derek Dolfie , Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist  
League of California Cities



Nick Lapis, Director of Advocacy  
Californians Against Waste



R. Patrick Mathews, General Manager/CAO  
Salinas Valley Recycles



Felipe Melchor, General Manager  
ReGen Monterey

*J. Alex Braicovich*

J. Alex Braicovich, Senior Regional Vice President  
CR&R Incorporated



Catherine Freeman, Senior Legislative Representative  
California State Association of Counties



Robert C. Ferrante, Chief Engineer and General Manager  
Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts