



May 24, 2021

ASSEMBLY FLOOR ALERT

AB 1035 (Salas): Recycled Materials Standards As Amended on April 5, 2021 – OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED ASSEMBLY THIRD READING FILE

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the League of California Cities (Cal Cities) respectfully hold an “oppose unless amended” position on AB 1035, which would require local agencies to apply standard specifications that allow for the use of recycled materials at or above the level allowed in the California Department of Transportation’s (Caltrans) most recently published standard specifications in streets and highways when feasible and cost effective.

CSAC and Cal Cities are concerned with the definition of “Department’s standard specifications,” which appears to include any future specifications for recycled materials that are published in Caltrans’ standard specifications. This would require ongoing updates to local specifications whenever Caltrans updates their specifications, thereby creating ongoing costs for local agencies to review Caltrans specifications, determine their feasibility and cost-effectiveness for local projects, and, if feasible and cost-effective, to formally adopt the specifications.

We have significant concerns with requiring that cities and counties adopt future specifications that we have not had the opportunity to review and consider, especially since these specifications are specifically designed for Caltrans projects. Local governments are not involved in Caltrans’ process of updating their standard specifications. While some specifications may be appropriate for Caltrans projects, they may not always be suitable for lower-traffic local streets and roads.

Accordingly, CSAC and Cal Cities request that the definition of “Department’s standard specifications,” be amended to the following:

“Department’s standard specifications” means the department’s ~~most recently published standard specifications, including any future specifications for recycled materials that are published in the department’s standard specifications.~~ standard specifications published in the 2018 Standard Specifications Book.

For these reasons, we hold an “oppose unless amended” position on AB 1035. If you need additional information, please contact Chris Lee (CSAC) at clee@counties.org or Bijan Mehryar (Cal Cities) at bmehyar@cacities.org.

cc: The Honorable Rudy Salas, California State Assembly