



June 15, 2021

The Honorable Lena Gonzalez
Chair, Senate Transportation Committee
State Capitol, Room 2209
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1035 (Salas): Recycled Materials Standards
As Amended on April 5, 2021 – OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED
Set for Hearing in Senate Transportation Committee – June 24, 2021**

Dear Senator Gonzalez:

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 appreciate recent amendments made to the bill, which specify that local agencies have flexibility in determining whether adopting the specifications for the materials outlined in the bill are feasible and cost effective, however, the bill should be amended to further clarify that local agencies may determine whether application of a standard specification is cost-effective. While recycled materials can be cost-effective in many projects, specifications designed for use on state highways are not always cost-effective for use on local roadways.

Moreover, we remain 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.

CSAC and Cal Cities request that the bill be amended to instead refer explicitly to Caltrans’ 2018 Standard Specifications, which are currently published and available for review by local jurisdictions. 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 designed for Caltrans projects without a formal process for local agency input. Specifications appropriate for Caltrans projects may not always be suitable for lower-traffic local streets and roads. Moreover, such specifications may require additional testing or other costs difficult for local agencies to absorb in order to be successfully implemented.

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

Sincerely,



Christopher Lee
Legislative Representative
California State Association of Counties



Damon Conklin
Legislative Representative
League of California Cities

cc: The Honorable Rudy Salas, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, Senate Transportation Committee
Randy Chinn, Chief Consultant, Senate Transportation Committee
Ted Morley, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus