



March 17, 2023

The Honorable Luz Rivas
Chair, California State Assembly Natural Resources Committee
1020 N Street, Room 164
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 909 (Hoover) – SUPPORT
As Introduced February 14, 2023**

Dear Assembly Member Rivas:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and League of California Cities (CalCities), we support Assembly Bill 909 (Hoover), regarding cleanup of illegally disposed hazardous waste.

Assembly Bill 909 expands CalRecycle's existing Solid Waste Disposal Cleanup Program to fund the cleanup and proper disposal of illegally dumped hazardous waste and household hazardous waste.

Illegal disposal of solid and hazardous wastes is a chronic problem facing local governments across the state. Unauthorized dumping often impacts abandoned, idled, or underutilized properties where the owners are either unable or unwilling to pay for the costs of cleanup. Many smaller jurisdictions lack the resources to deal with illegal dumping on private properties and public rights-of-way.

CalRecycle's Solid Waste Disposal Cleanup Program helps local governments pay for cleanup and restoration on sites where illegal dumping occurs. Unfortunately, existing regulations preclude the program from funding the removal, abatement, and cleanup or handling of hazardous substances. This means that while local governments can secure CalRecycle funding for illegally dumped trash on public or private property, they cannot seek funding to pay for removal and disposal of hazardous wastes and household hazardous wastes, including those that are dumped by unknown individuals on public property or rights of way. Some of the more common illegally disposed hazardous wastes and household hazardous wastes include batteries, cleaners, electronic wastes, paints, pesticides, used oil, and lamps. While not found as frequently as solid waste and co-

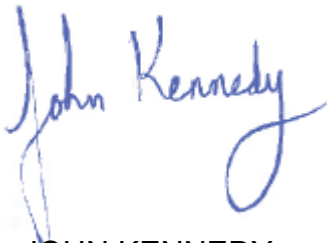
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disposal sites, the management and disposal costs for illegal hazardous waste disposal sites are substantially higher and divert scarce local resources from other important programs.

We strongly support AB 909's effort to expand CalRecycle's existing Cleanup Program to fund the cleanup and proper disposal of illegally dumped hazardous waste. Instead of building a new grant program from the ground up, AB 909 expands upon CalRecycle's existing, successful program. This will reduce state administrative costs and create a one-stop shop for locals seeking financial assistance to undertake these cleanup actions.

For the above reasons, we are pleased to support AB 909 and urge your "Aye" vote in committee. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at jkennedy@rcrcnet.org, awaelder@counties.org, or nromo@calcities.org.

Sincerely,



JOHN KENNEDY
Policy Advocate
RCRC



ADA WAELDER
Legislative Advocate
CSAC



NICK ROMO
Legislative Representative
CalCities

cc: The Honorable Josh Hoover, Member, California State Assembly
Members of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Elizabeth MacMillan, Consultant, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Casey Dunn, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus