



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

August 23, 2024

FLOOR ALERT

Assembly Bill 2902 (Wood) – SUPPORT

The Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) is pleased to sponsor Assembly Bill 2902 (Wood) and urges your “Aye” vote to refine CalRecycle’s SB 1383 organic waste recycling program and provide more flexibility for local implementation.

SB 1383 requires the state to reduce landfill disposal of organic waste 75 percent below 2014 levels. CalRecycle’s existing regulations were designed with urban solid waste collection systems in mind; however, they are sometimes ill-suited to deal with the needs and challenges of lower-population and rural areas and afford very little flexibility for those situations.

AB 2902 takes a multi-pronged approach to provide local governments with flexibility, promote innovation, increase local benefits, and reduce cost pressures, including:

- Extending the existing rural exemption for the state’s 19 counties with fewer than 70,000 residents (and cities within those counties). Collectively, these 19 counties have just under 600,000 residents spread across 50,000 square miles. When this exemption expires, rural jurisdictions will have to comply with collection and procurement obligations that are ill-suited for their remote and rural nature and will disproportionately increase costs relative to benefits achieved. AB 2902 statutorily extends this exemption until January 1, 2037, and allows CalRecycle to continue granting five-year extensions beyond that date.
- Adjusting local procurement targets to exclude residents covered by low-population and elevation waivers. As those residents are appropriately exempted from organic waste collection requirements, adjusting the procurement targets accordingly will avoid unnecessary local costs and vehicle miles traveled (VMT).
- Ensuring edible food recovery programs benefit the communities in which the food is generated.
- Facilitating continued use of organics in local animal feed operations and promoting soil health.
- Reducing the risk of adverse bear/human interactions by:
 - Providing flexibility in SB 1383 lid color requirements for bear bins.
 - Expanding CalRecycle’s grant program to allow provision of bear bins for solid and organic waste collection.
- Clarifying local compost/mulch give aways and rebates are not a gift a public funds.

AB 2902 provides much needed flexibility and will result in cost savings for local governments throughout the state. For these reasons, RCRC urges your “aye” vote on AB 2902.

Please contact RCRC Senior Policy Advocate John Kennedy with any questions at jkennedy@rcrcnet.org.

1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, CA 95814 | www.rcrcnet.org | 916.447.4806 | Fax: 916.448.3154

ALPINE · AMADOR · BUTTE · CALAVERAS · COLUSA · DEL NORTE · EL DORADO · GLENN · HUMBOLDT · IMPERIAL · INYO · KINGS · LAKE · LASSEN
MADERA · MARIPOSA · MENDOCINO · MERCED · MODOC · MONO · MONTEREY · NAPA · NEVADA · PLACER · PLUMAS · SAN BENITO · SAN LUIS OBISPO
SANTA BARBARA · SHASTA · SIERRA · SISKIYOU · SOLANO · SONOMA · SUTTER · TEHAMA · TRINITY · TULARE · TUOLUMNE · YOLO · YUBA