



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

March 29, 2017

Assemblymember Cristina Garcia, Chair
Assembly Natural Resources Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1036 (McCarty) Compost Permitting - Support

Dear Assemblymember Garcia,

NCRA is pleased to add our support for Assembly Bill 1036.

The Northern California Recycling Association (NCRA) is a non-profit organization founded in 1978, primarily to promote environmentally sound discards management practices, including waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting. Our 200 members include recycling businesses, employees, entrepreneurs, and individuals supportive of various Bay Area and State Zero Waste initiatives.

AB 1036 would facilitate the permitting of organics recycling infrastructure that is needed to meet the state's organic waste diversion mandates by requiring state entities to work together to establish a coordinated effort for the development of compost facilities.

Although California leads the nation in waste reduction and recycling, the state continues to dispose of more than 15 million tons of compostable organic matter each year. The state has adopted numerous goals that will encourage recycling of this resource material, and will ultimately lead to more compost production in the coming years.

Furthermore, the application of compost in agriculture and landscaping has been shown to offer significant soil carbon-sequestration and water-quality benefits, provide erosion control, and reduce the need for synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. However, permitting compost facilities remains challenging in California and compost facilities are regulated by several state agencies with occasionally counterproductive or conflicting requirements. According to CalRecycle, California needs 30 to 100 new organics recycling facilities in order to achieve these goals.

AB 1036 looks to the permitting process to ensure that state agency actions are consistent with diverting organics to composting facilities, in order to facilitate the state's organic waste

diversion goals. By managing our waste streams more effectively, California can significantly reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and fight climate change.

For these reasons, we urge your support for AB 1036.

Sincerely,

K. D. Brooms

K. Douglas Brooms

NCRA Board of Directors, Co-chair Zero Waste Advocacy Committee

CC: Members, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Assemblymember Kevin McCarty

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