



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

July, 2021

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair Senate Appropriations Committee
California State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1261 (Burke): CARB: Greenhouse gas emissions: Incentive programs – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Portantino,

NCRA expresses our support for AB 1261, which would require the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to implement a number of recommendations as suggested by the State Auditor, which would improve CARB's ability to isolate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from specific programs, help identify the effectiveness of specific programs, and more accurately estimate GHG emission reductions.

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 350 members include recycling businesses, employees, entrepreneurs, and individuals supportive of various Bay Area and State Zero Waste initiatives.

Over the past 15 years, the legislature and Governors have set forth aggressive greenhouse gas emissions goals for the state, relying heavily on CARB to implement regulations and incentives to help reach those goals. In so doing, CARB has spent a portion of the \$2 billion raised from the greenhouse gas reduction fund to implement and incentivize these programs. Unfortunately, based on the State Auditor's findings, the benefits both to the State's goals and local communities remain unclear.

Given the State's ambitious goals and limited funding, we concur with the State Auditor that, "the State needs more accurate program measurement to guide its greenhouse gas investments and increase the chances of meeting its greenhouse gas goals." Without accurate and validated data, the legislature has no way of knowing if funding is being spent on the right programs and benefiting disadvantaged communities as is required by statute.

Especially troubling was the revelation that in 2016, 80% of the \$42 million required to be spent in disadvantaged communities took place outside of those communities. This is an unacceptable outcome that must be remedied. AB 1261 helps to do that by ensuring that the most critical

recommendations are acted upon, and that the legislature has oversight into the funding it is allocating to CARB to implement these incentive programs.

AB 1261 would require the CARB to implement a number of recommendations as suggested by the State Auditor, including the following:

- CARB would establish processes to identify any overlap among its incentive programs that share the same objectives and create a process to define, collect, and evaluate data on the behavioral changes that result from each of its incentive programs.
- CARB would use the information collected pursuant to these processes to refine the greenhouse gas emissions estimates for each of its incentive programs in its annual reports to the Legislature, its funding plans, and any long-term planning documents or reports.
- CARB would develop a process to define, collect, and evaluate data that will translate to metrics demonstrating the socioeconomic benefits that result from each of its incentive programs, and to use this data to make funding and design recommendations in its annual reports to the Legislature and funding plans.
- The work would be required to be completed within three years of the appropriation.

For reasons including the above, NCRA supports AB 1261. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at ncrarecycles@gmail.com. Thank you.

Sincerely,

K. D. Brooms

K. Douglas Brooms

Both Co-Chairs of NCRA Zero Waste Advocacy Committee

John Moore

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Cc: Assemblymember Autumn Burke

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