



## 2025 LEGISLATIVE POLICIES AND PRIORITIES SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DRAFT

### THE COUNTY SUPPORTS:

1. Improved Integrated Waste Management Programs including efforts to **promote sustainable resource management**; a **reduction in greenhouse gasses** generated from the use of material resources and the collection and disposal of wastes; the standardization of the use of terms; **local government authority to direct waste** to permitted facilities; **local jurisdiction compliance** with state waste diversion mandates; and improved accuracy of the State-mandated reporting.
2. Requirements that products containing **hazardous materials be designed, manufactured, and used** in ways that **avoid harm to workers and the environment** and shall be managed and recycled using proper processes and procedures according to environmental regulations and Department of Toxic Substances Control guidelines.
3. **Expanded Product Stewardship and Producer Responsibility** that **reduces the amount and toxicity of solid waste** generated and **shifts physical and financial responsibility to the producers of products** for the recovery and disposal of problem wastes **through comprehensive end-of-life management**, for example, manufacturer implemented take-back programs for products such as, electric vehicle batteries, marine flares, photovoltaic panels, e-cigarettes and vaping products, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), treated wood waste, and single-use items, as well as improvements to enable more effective implementation and enforcement of existing product stewardship and producer responsibility programs.
4. Incorporation of **reuse into existing systems**, as well as **funding to create and expand systems for reusable and refillable foodware and packaging**.
5. Legislation and regulations that **support Countywide Food Rescue** efforts.
6. Securing local **Sustainable Materials Management program funding and financing**; local solid waste franchising and fee-setting authority; compensation for the collection, recycling, and disposal of waste **including Household Hazardous Waste**; and alternative funding sources.
7. **Expansion of Recycling, Composting, and Organics programs and facilities to strengthen markets for recyclable materials** and finished **bio-products**, encourage the **production** and

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Albert Gonzalez, Central County Cities | Larry Klein, SMaRT Station Cities | Bryan Mekechuk, West Valley Cities | Liang Chao, North County Cities | Vicki Veenker, Member- at-Large | Chris Clark, Member-at-Large | Margaret Abe-Koga, Santa Clara County | Pamela Campos, City of San José | Shiloh Ballard, Santa Clara Valley Water District | Marilyn Librers, South County Cities



**purchase of products containing recycled-content materials**, implement a statewide recycling information network, and work to **establish a circular economy** where **end-of-life management is designed into all products** before they are sold into the marketplace.

8. A **holistic approach** to **plastic products, packaging, and materials** that **focuses on safety, sustainability, circularity and necessity**, rather than just functionality; more **transparency, better management** and **identification of chemicals of concern**.
9. **Energy recovery** from **landfill gas, wood wastes**, and other **source-separated biomass; energy production** including **solar** at **landfills**.
10. Performance standards and use of **alternative cover** for **landfills, limited** to the quantities required to **protect public health** and **safety** and minimize nuisances.
11. **Legislation** to further address **litter control, illegal dumping** and **abatement** problems in California including **enforcement, outreach campaigns, a reduction in single-use items** such as cigarette filters/vaping products, straws/stirrers, bottle caps, and other problem materials, and the cleanup of littered and illegally dumped areas.
12. Regulations that **prohibit** the release of **radioactive or radiation-contaminated materials** into the recycling stream.
13. **Preventing** adoption of state and federal **laws** and **global treaties** that **preempt local government** from protecting public health and the environment.
14. **Elimination of local government waste liability** under Superfund for the **disposal of ordinary municipal waste**, expedited de minimis settlements for hazardous material generated by local government operations, and allocation of costs on the basis of toxicity rather than the volume of municipal waste. Superfund reform should also provide a level of protection to third party investors, lenders, and developers of Brownfield sites.

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