



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 6/2/2015  
Agenda Placement: 11D

## NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Lawrance Florin - Director  
Housing and Intergovernmental Affairs

**REPORT BY:** Michael Karath, STAFF ASSISTANT - BOS - 299-1477

**SUBJECT:** Support for AB 1103 (Dodd) - Creates Statewide Definition of Food Waste to Ensure Proper Recycling of this Material

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

Director of Housing and Intergovernmental Affairs requests approval of and authorization for the Chair to communicate to the Legislature and pertinent parties support for AB 1103 (Dodd), a bill that would create a statewide definition of "food waste" to ensure that this material is being recycled safely, effectively and efficiently. (Unanimous vote required)

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Director of Housing and Intergovernmental Affairs requests approval of and authorization for the Chair to communicate to the Legislature and pertinent parties support for AB 1103 (Dodd), a bill that would create a statewide definition of "food waste" and related materials to ensure that this material is being recycled safely, effectively and efficiently.

AB 1103 defines "food waste," "food-soiled paper," and "organic waste" to create a statewide standard definition. Presently there is no definition in state law and there are scores of local definitions. The bill will assist both California commercial generators and local governments in clarifying what is meant by "food waste" in order to protect public health and safety.

Recycling organic waste is critical because landfill gas is generated by the anaerobic decomposition of organic materials such as food, green waste and other carbon-based material. Fifty percent of landfill gas is methane, a greenhouse gas (GHG) with 84 times higher GHG emission than CO<sub>2</sub>. Notwithstanding advanced methane landfill control systems, however, significant amounts of methane from landfills continue to escape into the atmosphere creating GHG emitter hotspots.

Presently, the state only has a means of determining what is dumped into a landfill. Without any state requirements, the potential to continue landfilling, rather than recycling organic food waste is a real and most pressing problem to solve. Setting a statewide food waste definition will be a significant step to ensuring that CalRecycle can properly categorize this material to be counted in landfill diversion. Additionally, AB 1103 will assist the California Air Resources Board (CARB) in determining the actual GHG emissions reduced.

Neither CSAC nor RCRC has taken a position on AB 1103.

### **PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS**

1. Staff reports.
2. Public comments.
3. Motion, second, discussion and vote on the item.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Is there a Fiscal Impact?                      No

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

### **BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION**

California has set a goal to recycle 75% of all solid waste produced in the state. Organic waste comprises 32.4% of the state's solid waste stream, and food waste is a significant component of organic waste, comprising nearly 48% of that particular waste stream.

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AB 1103 proposes the following statewide definitions:

- l **Food waste** : discarded solid, semi-solid, and liquid food, including fruit, vegetables, cheese, meat, bones,

poultry, seafood, bread, rice, pasta, and oils; coffee filters and tea bags; cut flowers and herbs; and any putrescible matter produced from human or animal food production, preparation, and consumption activities. Food waste includes food-soiled paper.

- | **Food-soiled paper** : food-soiled napkins, towels, egg cartons, pizza boxes, waxed cardboard containers, and uncoated plates and cups.
- | **Organic waste** : food waste, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, nonhazardous wood waste, and food-soiled paper waste that is mixed in with food waste.

These statewide uniform definitions seek to increase the recycling of this waste material throughout California that will help reduce GHG gas and help local governments to more effectively and efficiently manage their landfill waste.

Neither CSAC nor RCRC has taken a position on AB 1103.

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

A . AB 1103 - Bill Text

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Molly Rattigan