

County of Santa Clara

Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission
Integrated Waste Management Division

1553 Berger Drive, Building #1
San Jose, California 95112
(408) 282-3180 FAX (408) 282-3188
www.ReduceWaste.org



2009 Legislative Policies: Housing, Land Use, Environment and Transportation Integrated Waste Management

The County supports:

- 1) Improved Integrated Waste Management Programs including efforts to promote “**Zero-Waste California;**” the standardization of the use of terms; local government authority to direct waste to permitted facilities; local jurisdiction compliance with AB 939 goals; and improved accuracy of the State-mandated reporting.
- 2) Securing local Integrated Waste Management program **funding and financing;** local solid waste franchising and fee-setting authority; compensation for the collection, recycling, and disposal of Universal Waste; and alternative funding sources.
- 3) Expanded **Product Stewardship and Producer Responsibility** that reduces the amount and toxicity of solid waste generated and finances the recovery and disposal of problem wastes.
- 4) Expansion of **Recycling and Composting Programs** by improving markets for recyclable materials, encouraging the purchase of products containing recycled materials, implementing a statewide recycling information network, and clarifying ownership of recyclable materials.
- 5) **Energy recovery from landfill gas,** wood wastes, and other biomass.
- 6) Performance standards and use of **alternative cover for landfills,** limited to the quantities required to protect public health and safety and minimize nuisances.
- 7) Legislation to further address **litter control** and abatement problems in California including enforcement, outreach campaigns, and the cleanup of littered areas.
- 8) Establishment of a voluntary **California Green Business Program** that ensures consistency throughout the state while allowing reasonable flexibility within a jurisdiction and flexible funding opportunities to assist businesses in protecting the environment through good business practices.
- 9) Establishment of a **California Green Building Program** that encourages building practices that reduce the use of virgin materials, maximizes use of recycled/reuse content materials and incentives for proper recycling of construction and demolition debris.
- 10) Regulations that prohibit the release of **radioactive or radiation-contaminated materials** into the recycling stream.
- 11) Requirements that all products containing **hazardous waste** be designed, manufactured, and used in ways that avoid harm to workers and the environment and be managed and recycled using proper processes and procedures according to environmental regulations and Department of Toxic Substances Control guidelines.
- 12) Elimination of local government **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.

Commissioners: Jamie McLeod, Chair; Ronit Bryant, Kansen Chu, Peter Drekmeier, Jose Esteves, Steve Glickman, Patrick Kwok, Cat Tucker, Kris Wang, Ken Yeager