

# ALBANY CALIFORNIA



**CITY OF ALBANY**  
1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE  
ALBANY, CA 94706  
[www.AlbanyCA.org](http://www.AlbanyCA.org)

18 April 2022

The Honorable Nancy Skinner  
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review  
Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 8630  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Budget Request – \$180 million (General Fund): Local Assistance for Organic Waste Recycling Program Development and Implementation**

Dear Assembly Member Ting and Senator Skinner:

The City of Albany supports the League of California Cities (Cal Cities) request for \$180 million (General Fund) in local assistance to continue helping cities develop and implement organic waste recycling programs, as required by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery's (CalRecycle) Organic Waste Reduction Regulations (SB 1383). This budget request builds on the \$60 million down payment approved by the Legislature last year and will further help local governments implement this important greenhouse gas emission reducing program and lower the cost to ratepayers.

Cities greatly appreciate the Legislature's funding for SB 1383 local assistance in the FY 2021-22 budget and CalRecycle's quick establishment of the grant program. However, additional funding is greatly needed. At a recent Senate Budget Committee Subcommittee hearing, CalRecycle Director Rachel Machi Wagoner indicated that CalRecycle received 470 applications for the initial round of funding, which is insufficient to support local government projects seeking resources.

The City of Albany submitted an application for the 2022 SB 1383 Local Assistance Grant Program in February 2022. The City has not yet heard from CalRecycle regarding whether the funding was approved. It is estimated that, if awarded funding, Albany would receive a base award of \$20,000, and has the potential to receive an additional \$3,390 based on a per capita allocation formula.

Local governments are the backbone for achieving California's solid waste management and recycling goals. CalRecycle's SB 1383 Regulations adopted in November 2020 require local governments to reduce landfill disposal of organic waste 75% by 2025 and to increase edible food waste recovery 20%. SB 1383 is the farthest-reaching solid waste management change since AB 939 (Sher, 1989) and CalRecycle has estimated statewide implementation will cost \$20 to \$40 billion over the next decade, including the addition of 50-100 new organic waste recycling facilities.

Compliance obligations for local governments began in early 2022 and local governments continue to develop a comprehensive suite of local collection, enforcement, and funding programs. These activities include hiring new staff and consultants, adopting ordinances, arranging for appropriate collection services, establishing inspection and enforcement programs, procuring recovered organic waste products, providing education and outreach, developing edible food recovery programs, and reporting to CalRecycle.

Implementation of SB 1383 regulations will require significant staff time, as well as funding for outreach and education to residential and commercial customers, record keeping and reporting, procurement of recycled-content paper products, among other implementation activities. The City of Albany would benefit tremendously from this budget proposal, as it will allocate additional resources toward meaningful SB 1383 implementation.

This funding request alone is not sufficient to achieve the state's organic waste recycling targets, especially in light of the estimated \$20 to \$40 billion anticipated total implementation cost; however, it will go a long way to help local governments and accelerate the development of the programs necessary to achieve those goals and to carry out early implementation activities.

In addition to this request for local program development assistance, the City of Albany recognizes that there remains additional need to dedicate funding for infrastructure development. California must significantly increase the number of organic waste recycling facilities to achieve the state's goals. We believe there is merit to supplementing this request with an infusion of state funding into CalRecycle's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grant and Loan Programs to provide financial assistance to develop additional organic waste recycling infrastructure. We believe that some portion of those funds should be targeted to regional organic waste recycling and procurement solutions and to rapidly scale up edible food recovery programs.

Finally, we suggest allocating funding to CalRecycle to develop a statewide program environmental impact report for the siting and construction of organic

waste composting facilities, as such a document could significantly reduce the time necessary to construct new composting facilities.

Developing suitable programs for organics diversion, obtaining the necessary approvals of programs and costs to rate payers through elected bodies, awarding contracts, and then implementing these programs will take time and resources. This \$180 million allocation will help local governments develop and implement effective organic waste recycling programs; however, we note that further statutory and regulatory changes may be necessary to maximize program effectiveness and efficiency, and address challenges that may arise in program implementation.

For these reasons, the City of Albany respectfully requests the Legislature appropriate \$180 million (General Fund) for local assistance as outlined above.

Sincerely,

Preston Jordan  
Mayor  
City of Albany

cc: Assembly member Buffy Wicks  
(Via email: [assemblymember.wicks@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.wicks@assembly.ca.gov))  
The Senate Budget Committee  
(Via email: [SBUD.Committee@senate.ca.gov](mailto:SBUD.Committee@senate.ca.gov))  
The Assembly Budget Committee (Via email: [AsmBudget@asm.ca.gov](mailto:AsmBudget@asm.ca.gov))  
Samantha Caygill, League of California Cities, East Bay Division  
(Via email: [scaygill@calcities.org](mailto:scaygill@calcities.org))  
League of California Cities (Via email: [cityletters@calcities.org](mailto:cityletters@calcities.org))



March 15, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Skinner  
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review  
Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 8630  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Philip Ting  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Budget Request – \$180 million (General Fund): Local Assistance for Organic Waste Recycling Program Development and Implementation**

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we respectfully request a one-time \$180 million increase (General Fund) in local assistance to continue helping cities and counties develop and implement organic waste recycling programs, as required by the Department of Resource Recovery's (CalRecycle) Organic Waste Reduction Regulations (SB 1383). This budget request builds on the \$60 million down payment approved by the Legislature last year, and will further help local governments implement this important greenhouse gas emission reducing program and lower the cost to ratepayers.

Cities and counties greatly appreciate the Legislature's funding for SB 1383 local assistance in the FY 2021-22 budget and for CalRecycle's quick establishment of the grant program. However, additional funding is greatly needed. At a recent Senate Budget Committee Subcommittee hearing, CalRecycle Director Machi Wagoner indicated that CalRecycle received 470 applications for the initial round of funding, which is insufficient to support local government projects seeking resources.

Local governments are the backbone for achieving California's solid waste management and recycling goals. CalRecycle's SB 1383 Regulations adopted in November 2020 require local governments to reduce landfill disposal of organic waste 75% by 2025 and to increase edible food waste recovery 20%. SB 1383 is the farthest-reaching solid waste management change since AB 939 (Sher, 1989) and CalRecycle has estimated statewide implementation will cost \$20-\$40 billion over the next decade, including the addition of 50-100 new organic waste recycling facilities.

Compliance obligations for local governments began in early 2022 and local governments continue to develop a comprehensive suite of local collection, enforcement, and funding programs. These activities include hiring new staff and consultants, adopting ordinances, arranging for appropriate collection services, establishing inspection and enforcement programs, procuring recovered organic waste

products, providing education and outreach, developing edible food recovery programs, and reporting to CalRecycle.

In order to fund all these activities, local governments must raise their rates to cover the additional costs of administering the program. At a time when inflation is at its highest rate in decades, our residents are already feeling the negative impacts on their personal budgets. This is the right time for the state to continue to fund the implementation of this program to help keep solid waste and recycling rates from increasing dramatically.

**The undersigned organizations jointly request a one-time \$180 million increase (General Fund) for local assistance to cities and counties for local organic waste recycling program development and initial implementation activities in the same manner as the current SB 1383 local assistance grants administered by CalRecycle.**

Given that CalRecycle has already created this grant program, we urge the Legislature to add more funding to this program to help meet local government needs.

This funding request *alone is not sufficient* to achieve the state's organic waste recycling targets, especially considering the estimated \$20-\$40 billion anticipated total implementation cost; however, it will go a *long way to help* local governments and accelerate the develop the programs necessary to achieve those goals and to carry out early implementation activities.

California must significantly increase the number of organic waste recycling facilities to achieve the state's goals. As we advocated for last year, we continue to need dedicated funding for infrastructure development. We believe there is merit to *supplementing* this budget request with an infusion of state funding into CalRecycle's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grant and Loan Programs to provide financial assistance to develop additional organic waste recycling infrastructure.

Additional funding should be focused to regional organic waste recycling and procurement solutions and to rapidly scale up edible food recovery programs. Finally, we again suggest allocating funding to CalRecycle to develop a statewide program environmental impact report for the siting and construction of organic waste composting facilities, as this could significantly reduce the time and cost to local governments necessary to construct new composting facilities.

Developing suitable programs for organics diversion, obtaining the necessary approvals of programs and costs to rate payers through elected bodies, awarding contracts, and then implementing these programs will take time and resources. This \$180 million allocation will go a long way to help local governments develop and implement effective organic waste recycling programs; however, we note that further statutory and regulatory changes may be necessary to maximize program effectiveness and efficiency, and address challenges that may arise in program implementation.

We respectfully request the Legislature appropriate \$180 million (General Fund) for local assistance as outlined above. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Derek Dolfie of Cal Cities at [ddolfie@calcities.org](mailto:ddolfie@calcities.org); John Kennedy of RCRC at [jkennedy@rcrcnet.org](mailto:jkennedy@rcrcnet.org); or Catherine Freeman of CSAC at [cfreeman@counties.org](mailto:cfreeman@counties.org).

Sincerely,



Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist  
League of California Cities (Cal Cities)



Tedd Ward, M.S.  
Director  
Del Norte Solid Waste Management  
Authority



Catherine Freeman  
Legislative Representative  
California State Association of Counties  
(CSAC)



Joe La Mariana  
Executive Director  
RethinkWaste



John Kennedy  
Policy Advocate  
Rural County Representatives of  
California (RCRC)



General Manager  
Monterey Regional Waste Management  
District

/s/ M. Michael Mohajer

**M. MICHAEL MOHAJER**

Commissioner  
Los Angeles County Integrated Waste  
Management Task Force



Ken Etherington  
Executive Director  
RecycleSmart



Kevin Bell, P.E.  
Deputy Executive Director  
Western Placer Waste Management  
Authority (WPWMA)



Doug Kobold  
LTF Chair  
Solid Waste Association of North  
America (SWANA)



Timothy Burroughs  
Executive Director  
StopWaste

cc: Members of the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
Members of the Assembly Budget Committee  
Joe Stephenshaw, Director, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee  
Kirk Feely, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus  
Joseph Shinstock, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus  
Kip Lipper, Office of Senate President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins  
Marie Liu, Office of Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon  
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