



**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT LOCAL TASK FORCE**

**Thursday, March 5, 2026, 3:00 – 5:00 pm**

**Scotts Valley Council Chambers  
1 Civic Center Drive Scotts Valley CA 95066**

Hybrid Meeting Information:

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88012732773>

Meeting ID: 880 1273 2773

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,88012732773# US (San Jose)

+16694449171,,88012732773# US

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/klzNWXhe>



**Please note:** Members/alternates attending remotely cannot vote or count toward a quorum unless arranged in advance with “just cause” and approved by a quorum present in the room.

### **Agenda**

- 1) **Welcome and Quorum Verification**
- 2) **Oral communications – Public:** *Informational item* for members of the public to raise issues not on the agenda and within the commission’s subject matter jurisdiction. State law prevents the commission from addressing issues in detail that are not included on the meeting agenda, but it can direct staff to provide a brief answer or schedule the issue for inclusion on a future agenda.
- 3) **Oral communications - Task Force members/alternates:** *Informational item* for commission members and alternates to report on issues of interest within the commission’s subject matter jurisdiction.
- 4) **Review Meeting Minutes (Attachment A)** – *Motion to approve* December 4, 2025 meeting minutes.
- 5) **Jurisdictional Updates** – *Informational Item* for staff members to provide brief updates on issues within the commission’s subject matter jurisdiction.
- 6) **Guest Presentation on Polyurethane Recycling** – TerraNova Bioremediation to discuss circular recycling with fungi biotechnology and R&D plans to utilize local waste feedstocks to scale biotechnology research.
- 7) **Reusable Dishware Discussion** – *Informational Presentation and Roundtable Discussion* of reusable dishware initiative planning. Review case studies and consider local approach to reduce disposable dishware/increase reusable dishware.
- 8) **SB 54 Update** – *Informational and Discussion item* – Staff will provide an SB 54 status update and things to watch.
- 9) **SB 1053 Update** – *Informational Item – Staff Update* to provide current status and information on County’s bag reduction ordinance.
- 10) **Legislative Update (Attachment B)** - *Staff update* to provide overview of bills introduced in the

2025/2026 legislative cycle affecting solid waste, recycling, edible food, organic waste, waste diversion, universal waste, hazardous materials management, and related topics.

**11) Call for meeting agenda items**

**12) Adjourn**



**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY**  
**INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT LOCAL TASK FORCE**  
**Thursday, December 4, 2025, 3:00 – 4:41 pm**  
**Capitola City Hall – Community Room**  
**420 Capitola Road, Capitola CA 9500**



**Meeting Minutes**

- 1) **Welcome and Quorum Verification** - Quorum was present in the room but both chair and vice chair were absent at 3:00pm, the meeting start time. Citizen Representative, Jacob Guth volunteered to act as chair and called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm. Staff called roll and meeting attendance was noted as follows:
  - Voting Members/Alternates Present: Jacob Guth (County, citizen rep/volunteer chair), Erika Senyk (Capitola), Leslie O'Malley (Santa Cruz, alternate), Greg Wimp (Scotts Valley), Antonio Banderas (Watsonville, alternate), Tami Stolzenhaller (Watsonville, alternate).
  - Members/Alternates Absent: Justin Cummings (County), Felipe Hernandez (County, chair), Sandy Brown (County, alternate), Ramon Gomez (County, alternate), Susan Westman (Capitola, alternate), Bob Nelson (Santa Cruz), Scott Newsome (Santa Cruz), Rene Golder (Santa Cruz, alternate), Rodolfo Onchi (Scotts Valley, alternate), Ari Parker (Watsonville, vice chair), Will Smith (Watsonville).
  - Task Force Staff Present: Beau Hawksford (County), Kasey Kolassa (County - online), Darcy Pruitt (County)
  - Agency Staff Present: Bret Williamson (County-online), Christina Horvat (County), Mary Ann LoBalbo (County), Brian Fontes (County-online) Mindy Esqueda (Scotts Valley-online).
  - Guests Present: Lawrence Nussbaum (Environmental Innovations, guest presenter-online), Claudia Villalta-Mejia (Environmental Innovations), Laura Chain (CalRecycle-online), Kelly Murray (Grey Bears-online) Andrew Hall (online).
- 2) **Oral communications – Public:** No communications received from the public.
- 3) **Oral communications - Task Force members/alternates:** Tami Stolzenhaller of Watsonville announced the California Air Resources Board (CARB) change to the Landfill Methane Rule. On November 20<sup>th</sup> CARB considered and “approved” updates to the state’s Landfill Methane Regulation, which seeks to reduce landfill emissions and enable to earlier detection and mitigation of subsurface temperature events. While CARB “approved” the regulation, it sent the proposal back and directed staff to reconsider the regulatory timelines; provide additional flexibility for operators to address unique facility characteristics; to clarify that limits on system downtime do not include circumstances outside of the operator’s control (like power disruptions); and address other implementation issues.
- 4) **Review Meeting Minutes (Attachment A)** – Leslie O’Malley made a motion to approve the September 4, 2025 meeting minutes. Tami Stolzenhaller seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- 5) **Jurisdictional Updates** – County staff provided a brief update on the November 9<sup>th</sup> marine flare collection event that was funded by a Household Hazardous Waste Discretionary Grant from CalRecycle. The marine flare collection event was a partnership between California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC), Santa Cruz County, the City of Santa Cruz, and the Santa Cruz Port District. The collection event was scheduled from 8am to 12 noon at the Santa Cruz Port District maintenance yard located at 425 Brommer St. The public collection event was well attended with

Attachment A  
December 4, 2025 Task Force Meeting Minutes

145 participants, collected 629 pounds of explosive marine flares, handed out 48 electronic reusable flares, and educated participants about switching from single use explosive flares to reusable electronic flares. The event also included a stop at the County's Buena Vista Household Hazardous Waste facility to collect the County's stored marine flares for proper disposal as part of this event. This marine flare collection event was an important collaboration with CPSC that made it possible to coordinate our local event with other similar events across Northern California to share resources and reduce costs.

- 6) **Guest Presentation on Reusable Dishware** – Lawrence Nussbaum of Environmental Innovations (EI) presented information on reusable dishware programs in the northern California region, including case studies, lessons learned, and opportunities to develop local programs to make the change from disposable to reusable dishware. Lawrence introduced the Task Force to EI and the work they do in the community. EI is a local, woman owned, certified green business providing a variety of sustainable, adaptive, environmental program services to business, governments and non-profit organizations. EI's work in the food ware space includes reusable readiness surveys and data analysis, educational resources, outreach campaigns, technical assistance, financial assistance, vendor relations, compliance support and 1 to 1 outreach to thousands of food facilities. EI's regional food ware campaigns in the Bay and Monterey Bay Areas include: Foodware Aware in San Mateo County, Project Food ware in Cupertino and Turn the Tide on Plastic in Seaside. Lawrence talked about different types of food ware approaches (mandatory v. voluntary) that address different types of food ware. Many jurisdictions have mandatory disposable food ware ordinances that include Styrofoam bans, requirements for compostable or fiber based compostable food ware and accessories by request. Voluntary programs tend to be incentive based and include reusable assistance grants, green business assistance, and reuse to go programs. Some of the reasons to prioritize reuse are:
- a. Compostable food ware compliance can be difficult: confusing compostable food ware requirements/standards, cost, availability, and functionality challenges for food businesses.
  - b. Compost acceptance: Mixed messages about compostable food ware accepted by haulers and composted into recycled organic products
  - c. Evolving SB 54 rules adding uncertainty to the future of compostable food ware.
  - d. Reusable food ware offers the most reliable, cost-saving way to cut single use plastic waste, especially for dine-in service

San Mateo County Foodware Aware Program includes a County adopted model foodware ordinance that requires:

- a. fiber-based compostables,
- b. encourages reusables (not required) and
- c. accessories by request (AB 1276)

Seventeen local jurisdictions adopted the County's ordinance, three incorporated a reusable requirement for dine in. The County's Foodware Aware Program offers outreach, education, technical assistance and resources. The County's leadership on education and enforcement policy for adopting cities provides a unified consistent implementation approach for thousands of food facilities throughout San Mateo County.

San Mateo County's program is a proven model for success:

- a. Developed program branding, educational materials, and a website
- b. Created purchasing guides, window clings, table tents, and signage
- c. Included significant outreach to food businesses in the form of mailers, calls, and site visits to provide technical assistance to food businesses
- d. Provided over 140 reuse grants to help businesses to transition to reusable foodware
- e. Culturally competent outreach in English, Spanish and Chinese languages

Attachment A  
December 4, 2025 Task Force Meeting Minutes

Compliance rates varied by Foodware Aware programs:

- a. Compostables fiber foodware had 14% compliance, 27% non-compliance, and 59% partial compliance rates.
- b. Accessories by request had a 62% compliance, 20% non-compliance, and 17% partial compliance rates
- c. Reusables for dine-in had a 54% compliance, 32% non-compliance, and 14% partial compliance rates.

Looking more closely at reusables for dine-in, plates and bowls, cups, and utensils were most readily adopted. Business type also influenced adoption rates: full-service restaurants had the highest adoption rates at 82%, fast casual and coffee shops had middling adoption rates at 44%, with the lowest adoption rates for fast food restaurants (3%), boba (4%) and juice/smoothy shops (6%). Ownership types also influenced dine-in adoption rates. Independent owners had the highest adoptions rates at 66%, followed by small regional chains at 59%, and national/international chains at 18%.

Reuse for dine-in is the low hanging fruit for disposable foodware source reduction:

- a. Easy to scale since many restaurants already use some reusable items
- b. Delivers meaningful cost savings for business
- c. Improves the dining experience and food presentation for customers
- d. Clear requirements for business operators
- e. Fewer barriers than switching to compostables or other single use alternatives
- f. Can do away with disposable foodware on all dine-in

Reuse Assist Mini-Grant Program help make the switch to reusables implemented in Seaside, Sunnyvale, Oakland, Alameda County and San Mateo County (300 conversions and counting)

5 step model: Recruit, Identify needs, Deliver reusables, Support business, Track implementation.

- a. Works with or without an ordinance
- b. Helps overcome business cost & capacity barriers
- c. Captures metrics
- d. Scalable: pilot program to jurisdiction wide approach

Lessons Learned – What Works Best

- a. Provide simple, clear requirements for dine-in
- b. Provide multiple touchpoints including 1 on 1 outreach
- c. Provide grants or incentives to offset upfront costs
- d. Partnerships with Community Based Organizations to reach local businesses
- e. Produce consistent education/outreach materials across jurisdictions
- f. Explore to-go system partnerships and BYO campaigns

There was a question-and-answer session after the presentation that included a conversation about strategies to work with businesses that have a lower adoption rates. Answers included exploring BYO options and education around AB 619 that outlines how businesses can develop “touchless” methods to accept and fill customer containers. Steps to normalize BYO and reuse programs were also discussed. Other questions related to calculated savings for switching to reusables and if labor costs were factored into the analysis. Generally, the additional labor to wash dishes was considered and did not significantly impact bottom line because most food businesses are already washing dishes and using some reusables in their prep/cook and serving operations. The savings come from not buying disposables. Questions about storing reusables was asked and is generally not an issue because of the reduction in storage needs with the use of fewer disposable items. There were also questions about working with national chains and franchisees that may have limited options for adopting reusables based on the contract requirements of the franchisor. The conversations can be difficult to resolve with larger chains because local laws don’t make a big impression. Smaller chains tend to be more responsive, especially if the changes don’t affect

Attachment A  
December 4, 2025 Task Force Meeting Minutes

branding and improve customer experience. The bigger challenge with most franchised chains is the increase in to-go business and less restaurant space devoted to dine-in seating, so even if you convert to dine-in reusables you may not see a significant shift away from single-use products because of the increase in takeout food service.

- 7) **CRV Update** – County Staff provided a brief overview on CRV developments since the September Task Force meeting that focused primarily on CRV redemption locally. There was a general discussion of the remaining problems, including slow reverse vending machines that fill up quickly, the hurdles (apps and paypal account) required to use reverse vending machines, the poor service when the reverse vending machine serves the convenience zone, and the limited participation of instore redemption. County staff also provided information on how to complain to CalRecycle about CRV problems. Tami Stolzenthaler mentioned that Cuevas Recycling is interested in opening additional recycling centers in the County and offered to provide contact information if needed.
- 8) **SB 1053 Update (Attachment B)** – County Staff walked through proposed amendments to the County’s existing bag reduction ordinance to comply with SB 1053 requirements. New state requirements ban plastic carryout bags starting 1/1/2026 and increase the postconsumer recycling content of recycled paper carryout bags from a minimum of 40% to 50% starting 1/1/2028. There was a general discussion among city and county staff regarding next steps to bring the county update to the Board of Supervisors. Generally, Task Force members reviewed the proposed amendments and agreed they were adequate and suggested that the County “go first” and the cities will follow once adoption of the revisions is complete.
- 9) **Embedded Battery Presentation** – County Staff provided an update on embedded batteries and the changes SB 1215 (Newman, 2022) makes to the Covered Electronic Waste (CEW) Recycling Program. SB 1215 is California’s Responsible Battery Recycling Act of 2022 to improve embedded battery product recycling and reduce fire risks associated improper disposal. State law changes define embedded battery items as “*a product containing a battery from which the battery is not designed to be easily removed from the product by the user of the product with no more than commonly used household tools.*” There are embedded battery products that are specifically exempted from the law because they are covered either by other programs or regulated as medical devices. These exempt products include: medical devices (21 USC § 321(h)) durable medical equipment (42 CFR § 414.202), and devices to support/sustain human life (21 USC § 360c(a)(1)(B&C)), already covered electronic devices (PRC § 42463(g)(1)(A)), energy storage systems (PUC § 2835(a)), and electronic nicotine delivery systems (15 USC § 375(7)). Consumers will be charged a disposal fee when purchasing covered embedded battery products. Manufacturers are required to label covered products with brand name and battery chemistry used in the product. Manufacturers are also required to submit product sales data. CalRecycle and DTSC will collaborate to set the disposal fee and collection/recycling payments.
- 10) **Legislative Update (Attachment C)** – County Staff provided an overview of bills passed and bills the passed through the legislature but were vetoed by the Governor in the 2025 legislative cycle. Two of the composting bills we were watching passed and became law: AB 411 which allows composting of certain livestock carcasses and AB 279 increases the size of permit exempt agricultural composting operations that meet specific feedstock, volume, and zoning requirements. Many of the bills we were watching languished in committee and may be taken up in 2026. These bills include AB 864 which would require DTSC to develop rules to increase material recovery from solar photovoltaic panels and SB 377 which would require the Public Utilities Commission to work with the Air Resources Board to advance the development and use of biomethane.
- 11) **Call for meeting agenda items: Discussion re durables, SB 54 update, Portland’s**

**deconstruction program**

**12) Meeting Adjourned at 4:53**

DRAFT



# Reusable Dishware Presentation Environmental Innovations

Santa Cruz County Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force  
December 4, 2025



**Reusable Dishware Programs: Case Studies, Lessons & Opportunities**  
Santa Cruz County Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force



Attachment A: December 4, 2025 Task Force Meeting Minutes  
[Meeting Minutes - Attachment A]  
Environmental Innovations – Reusable Dishware



## Environmental Innovations

### Small and Medium-sized Business and Sustainability Outreach Specialists

- Local, Woman-owned B corp, Certified Green Business
- Serving businesses, governments, and nonprofits in California and Nationwide
- Custom, tailored programs in numerous services areas
- Coordinate the California Green Business Network and a dozen municipal Green Business Programs

#### Our Approach:

- Community-Based Social Marketing (CBSM)
- Equity-focused programs
- Culturally appropriate and language specific services
- Community Based Organization engagement

[environmentalin.com](http://environmentalin.com)



## Our Services

- ★SMB Environmental and Resiliency Outreach
- ★Climate Action and Adaptation Planning
- ★Stormwater Permitting
- ★SB 1383 Outreach & Compliance
- ★Edible Food Recovery
- ★Foodware Ordinance Compliance
- ★Green Business Certification Assistance
- ★Waste Management
- ★Energy Efficiency Services
- ★Electrification Outreach
- ★Equity Program Design



## Environmental Innovations in the Foodware Space

- Reusable-readiness surveys and data analysis
- Educational resources
- Outreach campaigns and technical assistance
- Financial incentives distribution
- Vendor relations
- CBO partnerships
- Compliance support
- 1:1 outreach to thousands of food facilities

#### CLIENTS

County of San Mateo, County of San Benito City of Seaside, City of Watsonville, City of Cupertino, City of Sunnyvale, City of Capitola, City of Scotts Valley, City of Marina, Salinas Valley Recycles, City of Mountain House, City of Pinole (new), City of Irvine (new)

## Foodware Campaigns



County of San Mateo



PROJECT  
FOODWARE  
For a Plastic-Free Future

City of Cupertino



City of Seaside,  
EPA Grant



## Different Municipalities: Voluntary vs Mandated Initiatives

### Disposable Foodware Ordinances

- Styrofoam bans
- Compostable foodware
- Fiber-based compostable foodware
- Reusables for Dine-in
- Accessories by Request (AB 1276)

### Voluntary Programs (Incentive-based)

- Reusable Assistance Grants
- Green Business Assistance
- Reuse To Go Programs



## Why Prioritize Reuse?

- Compostable product standards, costs, availability, and functionality are challenging for businesses
- Waste haulers and composters often give mixed messages about what's acceptable
- SB 54 rules are still evolving, adding uncertainty
- Reuse offers the most reliable, cost-saving way to cut single-use plastic waste - especially for dine-in



Attachment A: December 4, 2025 Task Force Meeting Minutes  
 [Meeting Minutes - Attachment A]  
 Environmental Innovations – Reusable Dishware



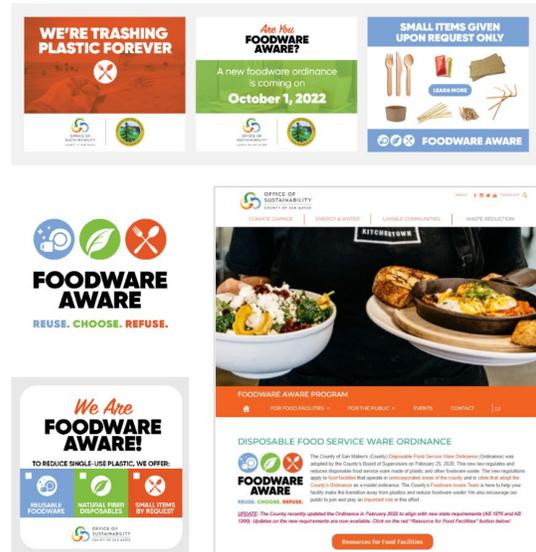
**San Mateo County (SMC):**  
 A County-Led Framework

- County adopted a Model Foodware Ordinance
  - Fiber-base compostables
  - Reuse encouraged, not required
  - Accessories by request (AB 1276)
- 17 jurisdictions adopted (3 incorporated reusable requirement)
- County leads education and enforcement for adopting cities
- Provides a unified, consistent approach for thousands of food facilities
- Foodware Aware Program offers outreach, education, technical assistance, and resources



**SMC Foodware Aware Campaign:**  
 A proven model for success

- Developed program branding, educational materials and website
- Created purchasing guides, window clings, table tents and signage
- Sent 4,580 mailers, completed 2,281+ calls and site visits, and provided 507 technical assistance sessions
- 140+ reuse grants to transition businesses
- Culturally competent outreach via Spanish and Chinese-speaking CBO partners
- Expos and vendor partnerships



Attachment A: December 4, 2025 Task Force Meeting Minutes  
 [Meeting Minutes - Attachment A]  
 Environmental Innovations – Reusable Dishware



Example of Custom Resources

**ASK FOR ACCESSORIES**  
 (also required by state law AB 1276)  
**PREGUNTE POR ACCESORIOS**  
 (también lo exige la ley estatal AB 1276)

**Help Us Reduce Waste**  
**Ayúdenos a reducir los residuos**

smcfoodware.org

**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
**Plastic-Free Guide for Boba Shops**

**FOODWARE AWARE**  
 SAN MATEO COUNTY Sustainability Department

The San Mateo County Disposable Foodware Ordinance bans single-use plastic foodware, including compostable plastic (bioplastic, PLA, CPLA, TPLA), for drinking cups, utensils, straws, and food containers. Instead, restaurants and cafes are required to use fiber-based compostable foodware or reusable foodware. Boba shops across the Bay Area have successfully made this switch and are taking other actions to be more sustainable.

**Urban Ritual | San Mateo, CA**

- Eliminated plastic cups and implemented branded fiber boba cups, lids and straws.
- Partnered with Okapi Reusables to offer a rentable reusable cup service.
- Market their sustainability efforts as a marketing tool to get more customers.

**Nano's Ohana | Half Moon Bay, CA**

- Sells branded reusable boba cups that come with a reusable lid and straw.
- Customers receive a discount when they bring their own boba cup or straw.
- Invested in reusable foodware for special weekend menu items, which saves the business \$3,302 every year.

**Mr. Green Bubble Tea | Menlo Park, CA**

- Provides drinks in reusable mason jars.
- Uses reusable baskets, utensils, and a bussing station with eye-popping signage for their customers.
- Promotes dining on-site, which elevates the entire cafe experience as a memorable event.
- Uses a separate and detachable lid rather than a seal.

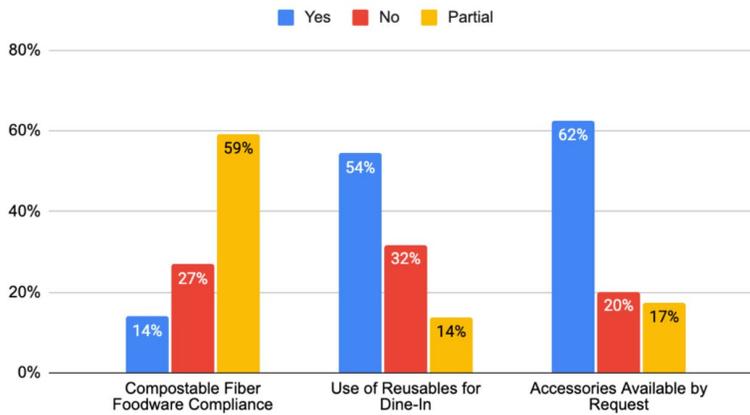
**Teaspoon | Palo Alto, CA**

- Serves boba tea in reusable mason jars with reusable straws when the customer stays on-site. Serves water in reusable plastic tumblers.
- A Bring-Your-Own cup discount is highly visible to guests.
- Developed a Bubble Straw Club with Girl Scout Troop 60016. Customers receive a free boba tea after bringing their own reusable straw 25 times.
- Sells stainless steel straws and branded boba tea cups in the cafe.



SMC Compliance Results

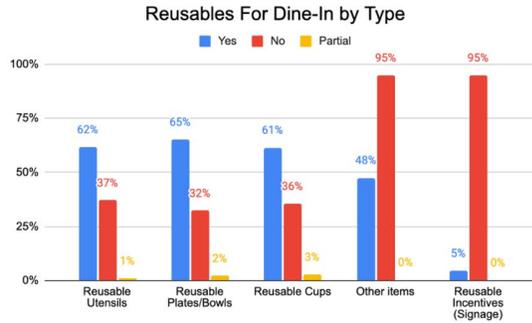
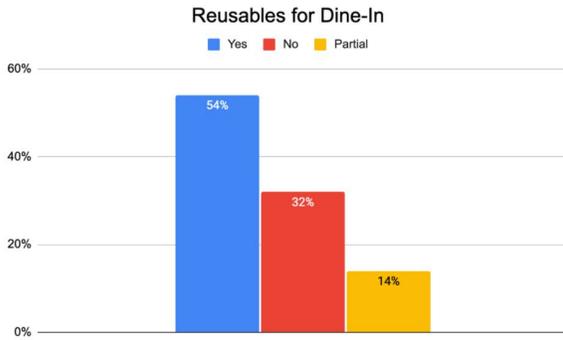
Overall Compliance Findings



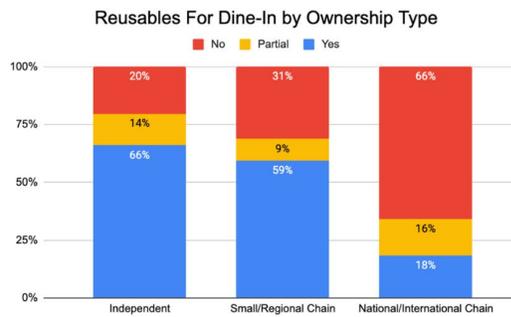
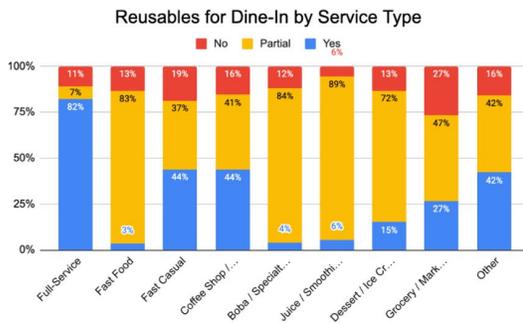
Attachment A: December 4, 2025 Task Force Meeting Minutes  
 [Meeting Minutes - Attachment A]  
 Environmental Innovations – Reusable Dishware



### Reuse Adoption



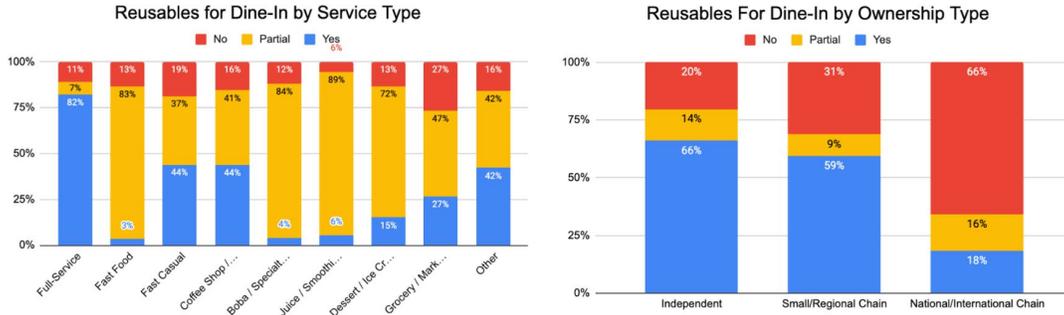
### Variation in Reuse Adoption



Attachment A: December 4, 2025 Task Force Meeting Minutes  
 [Meeting Minutes - Attachment A]  
 Environmental Innovations – Reusable Dishware



### Variation in Reuse Adoption



### Why the SMC Model Matters for Santa Cruz County

- Demonstrates how a County can lead a multi-city rollout
- Reduces duplication of effort for each city
- Ensures consistent messaging to businesses
- Even voluntary reuse adoption increases when supported with:
  - Education
  - Materials
  - Technical assistance
  - Mini-grants



Attachment A: December 4, 2025 Task Force Meeting Minutes  
[Meeting Minutes - Attachment A]  
Environmental Innovations – Reusable Dishware

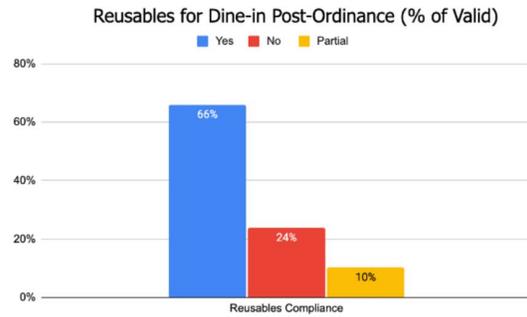
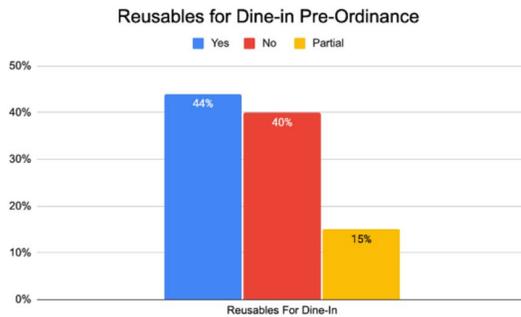


### Reuse for Dine-In: Low Hanging Fruit

- Many restaurants already use some reusable items
- Delivers meaningful cost savings for businesses
- Improves the dining experience and presentation
- Easy to scale with jurisdiction support
- Clear, straightforward requirements for operators
- Fewer operational barriers than switching to compostables or other single-use alternatives
- Source reduction: turns off the single-use “spigot” entirely



### Reusables Ordinance as Driver



City of Cupertino: Reuse for Dine-In Ordinance plus Outreach and Education increased Reusables Use for Dine-In

Attachment A: December 4, 2025 Task Force Meeting Minutes  
 [Meeting Minutes - Attachment A]  
 Environmental Innovations – Reusable Dishware



**ReUse Assist Mini-Grant Program**

**Make the Switch to Reusables**  
 Save Money • Improve Customer Experience • Reduce Waste

Replacing disposable foodware with real plates, cups, and utensils can save \$2,000 - \$18,000 per year.

**Get up to \$500 in FREE reusable foodware and hands on support!**

- **5-Step Model:** Recruit → Identify → Deliver → Support → Track
- Works with or without ordinance
- Helps overcome business cost & capacity barriers
- Captures metrics
- Scalable pilot-to-citywide approach

**300 conversions and counting**

Implemented in Seaside, Cupertino, Sunnyvale, Oakland, Alameda County, and San Mateo County



**Case Studies**

**Red's Donuts, Seaside**



Before

After

- \$12,887 total annual savings
- 186,810 disposable items reduced per year
- 3,778 pounds of annual waste reduction

**Tasty Subs and Pizza, Sunnyvale**



Before

After

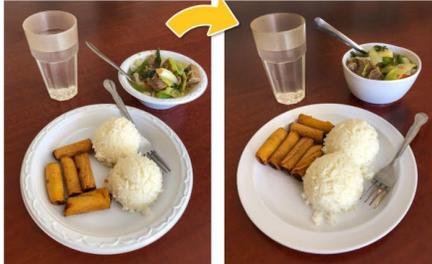
- \$18,000 in annual net cost savings
- 118,000 disposable items reduced per year
- 1,600 pounds of annual waste reduction

Attachment A: December 4, 2025 Task Force Meeting Minutes  
 [Meeting Minutes - Attachment A]  
 Environmental Innovations – Reusable Dishware



Case Studies

Manila Eatery, Colma



Before

After

- \$4,693 of annual savings
- 54,507 disposable items reduced per year
- 2,240 pounds of annual waste reduction

Del Oro Taqueria Mexican Grill, San Mateo



Before

After

- \$2,227 total annual savings
- 68,133 disposable items reduced per year
- 811 pounds of annual waste reduction



Promotions

- Listing on Sunnyvale Website
- Social Media Promotions
- Article in Homestead High School's newspaper
- Feature in newsletter

Sunnyvale

Enter Search Keywords

Your Government Recreation and Community Homes, Streets and Property News Center and Events Calendar

**Reusable Foodware Pilot**  
 Post Date: 12/06/2023 2:51 PM

Disposable plastic foodware like utensils, plates and cups are often not recyclable. They get dumped in landfills. They often end up as litter in our streets and waterways. To reduce the use of plastic foodware we are piloting a new program. The purpose is to replace plastic with reusable or compostable options.

Restaurants listed below are participating in the pilot. For dine-in customers, they're testing reusable foodware. For to-go orders, they're testing compostable utensils and containers.

The pilot program ends early March 2024. We will then report the results to City Council.

Besides visiting these restaurants, go to [SiliconValleyReduces.org](https://SiliconValleyReduces.org). There you'll find a list of restaurants that let you bring your own reusable containers.

**Dine-in Reusables**

- Bagel Place Café
- Bambu Desserts & Drinks
- The Bay Fish and Chips
- bb.q Chicken Sunnyvale
- Cocohodo Sunnyvale
- Cup n' Cone
- ES Suites Sunnyvale
- Lopez Taqueria
- Pupusa Time
- Sunnyvale Saigon Seafood Restaurant
- Taqueria Azteca
- Tasty Subs and Pizza
- Wok's On Express

**To-go Compostables**

- DL Brazuca
- Falafel Bite
- K's Café
- Pad Thai Cuisine
- Tacos Azteca

sunnyvale\_environment  
 Sunnyvale, California

**Businesses Reducing Plastic**

Lopez Taqueria

15 likes

Lopez Taqueria

ES Suites Sunnyvale



## Reuse Solutions for Take-Out

### Third Party Reusable Services

Example - Okapi: App-based reusable dishware rental services available at restaurants and cafes



### BYO Education Campaigns

Normalize bringing your own cup or container and help businesses implement BYO-friendly practices



## Lessons Learned - What Works Best

1. Provide simple, clear requirements for dine-in
2. Provide multiple outreach touchpoints including 1:1 outreach
3. Provide grants or incentives to offset upfront cost
4. CBO partnerships to reach immigrant-owned businesses
5. Produce consistent materials across jurisdictions
6. Provide opportunities and signage
7. Explore to-go system partnerships and BYO campaigns



Attachment A: December 4, 2025 Task Force Meeting Minutes  
[Meeting Minutes - Attachment A]  
Environmental Innovations – Reusable Dishware



Thank You! Questions?

Contact: Lawrence Nussbaum  
lnussbaum@environmentalin.com



[environmentalin.com](http://environmentalin.com)





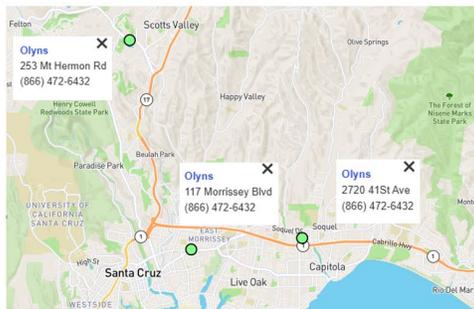
# California Redemption Value (CRV) Santa Cruz County Local Redemption Options

Santa Cruz County Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force  
December 4, 2025

## How to Find CRV Redemption Locations

In-Store Redemption Services:

<https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/BevContainer/InStoreRedemption>



CRV Reverse Vending Machine Locations



CRV Recycling Center Locations

Recycling Center Redemption Services:

<https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/BevContainer/RecyclingCenters>

## CalRecycle Oversees Statewide CRV Program



CalRecycle oversees the state's Beverage Container Recycling Program, including:

- Stand-alone recycling centers
- Retailer redemption locations

CalRecycle regulates operations of these businesses to ensure they follow this recycling program's rules.

File complaints with CalRecycle at - <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/complaints/>



**Questions?**  
*Thank you!*



# SB 1053 – Plastic Bag Ban Jurisdictional Discussion

Santa Cruz County Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force  
December 4, 2025

## New Carryout Bag Requirements SB 1053



State law places new restrictions on the types of bags most grocery, retail stores with a pharmacy, convenience stores, food marts, and liquor stores can distribute:

- **Beginning January 1, 2026**, stores will only be allowed to distribute recycled carryout paper bags to customers for a minimum charge of ten cents (\$0.10) per bag at:
  - Checkout counters
  - Self-checkout kiosks
  - In-store pickup
  - Curbside delivery
  - Home delivery
- **Beginning January 1, 2028**, recycled paper bags distributed at stores must contain at least 50% postconsumer recycled materials.

California Public Resources Code section 42279 et. seq.

## New Carryout Bag Requirements SB 1053

### Local Ordinances Across California

Every store throughout California must comply with the requirements of the law, regardless of where the store is located. If the store is in a city or county that has its own bag ordinance, however, the store may need to comply with the local requirements as well.

[A list of cities and counties that have adopted bag ordinances is available.](#) This page may not contain every local jurisdiction in California with an ordinance that restricts or prohibits the use of certain bags. We recommend checking with your local city or county authority to verify whether your city or county has its own bag ban ordinance that is in effect.



## SB 1053 Plastic Carryout Bag Ban Discussion

### § 5.48.010. Findings and intent.

(A) It is the intent of the County of Santa Cruz, in enacting this chapter, to eliminate the common use of plastic single-use carryout bags, encourage the use of reusable bags by consumers and retailers, and to reduce the consumption of single-use bags in general.

(B) The County of Santa Cruz has an obligation to protect the environment, the economy, and public health. The County of Santa Cruz has a 75 percent waste reduction goal, which is to be reached by waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting. The County of Santa Cruz makes the following findings:

(1) In September 2011, the County of Santa Cruz passed its first bag reduction ordinance to eliminate certain types of plastic carryout bags in the unincorporated County and to encourage reusable bags to reduce waste and to protect the environment from plastic pollution.

(2) In November 2016, California voters approved Proposition 67, a statewide referendum to uphold Senate Bill 270 that banned single-use carryout bags. As a result, most grocery stores, retail stores with a pharmacy, convenience food stores, foodmarts, and liquor stores no longer provide single-use, lightweight, plastic carryout bags to their customers at the point of sale.

(3) Senate Bill 270 allowed the use of thicker film plastic carryout bags that were deemed reusable if they met specified standards. These thicker film plastic carryout bags were not generally reused by consumers and resulted in an increased amount of plastic and plastic waste.

(4) In 1 month 2019, the County of Santa Cruz updated its bag reduction ordinance to further implement state bag reduction mandates after Senate Bill 270 took effect.

It is the intent of this ordinance to do all of the following:

(1) Support and reflect the will of Santa Cruz County residents and California voters to ban the distribution of film plastic carryout bags at stores.

(2) Incentivize California consumers to bring their own reusable bag for carrying out store purchases, with stores encouraging and supporting this practice, which will reduce the costly and wasteful practice of relying on store-provided carryout bags.

(3) Support sustainable and thriving communities and natural environments that are not burdened with pollution from plastic production nor littered with plastic waste.

(4) Eliminate film plastic carryout bags from grocery store distribution and increase the recycling of paper carryout bags.

(5) Reduce the proliferation of plastic pollution by eliminating the existing provisions of law that allows film plastic carryout bags to be distributed as reusable bags under the County's and the state's bag bans.



Attachment A: December 4, 2025 Task Force Meeting Minutes  
 [Meeting Minutes - Attachment C]  
 SB 1053 Bag Ban Progress Report Presentation Slides

# SB 1053 Bag Ban Definition Discussion

(A) → "Carryout bags" means bags provided by retailers to customers at the point of sale to hold customers' purchases. "Carryout bags" does not include bags used to contain loose items prior to checkout, such as meat, produce, and bulk goods, and does not include prepackaged products. ¶

(B) → "Film plastic or plastic film" means thin continuous polymeric material that can be made from a variety of plastic resins. Common resins used include polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), and polyvinyl chloride (PVC). Generally, film plastic is made from thicknesses of .00025" (.06mm) up to .010" (.25mm). ¶

(B)(C) → "Single-use plastic bag" or "single-use plastic carryout bag" means a single-use carryout bag of any size that is made from film plastic and provided at the point of sale to customers by a retail establishment that is not a recycled paper bag or a reusable bag. Single-use plastic bags include both compostable and noncompostable carryout bags. ¶

(C)(D) → "Recycled single-use paper bag" or "single-use paper carryout bag" means a paper carryout bag provided by a retail establishment at the point of sale that is made from paper and is not a reusable bag that until January 1, 2028 must contain at least 40% postconsumer recycled paper. On and after January 1, 2028, a recycled paper bag must contain at least 50% postconsumer recycled paper. ¶

(D)(E) → "Recyclable" means material that can be sorted, cleaned, and reconstituted using the County's available recycling collection programs for the purpose of using the altered form in the manufacture of a new product. Recycling does not include burning, incinerating, converting, or otherwise destroying solid waste. ¶

(E)(F) → "Reusable bag" means any bag with handles that is specifically designed and manufactured for at least 125 uses with a volume of at least 15 liters multiple reuse, and is either (a) made of cloth or other washable woven fabric, or (b) made of durable material that is at least four mils thick can be disinfected. A "reusable bag" may be made of recyclable plastic such as high density polyethylene (HDPE), low density polyethylene (LDPE), or polypropylene, but cannot be made from film plastic. ¶

(F)(G) → "Retail establishment" or "retail store" means all sales outlets, stores, shops, restaurants, vehicles, or other places of business located within the unincorporated area of the County of Santa Cruz, which operate primarily to sell or convey goods, including "to go" food, directly to the ultimate consumer. ¶

(G)(H) → "Exempted uses" means those point-of-purchase or delivery sales which have received an exemption under SCCC § 5.48.030 that allows the use of single-use bags. ¶

(H)(I) → "Prepared food" means foods or beverages which are prepared on vendor's premises by cooking, chopping, slicing, mixing, freezing, or squeezing, and which require no further preparation to be consumed. "Prepared food" does not include any raw uncooked meat product or fruits and vegetables which are not chopped, squeezed, or mixed. ¶



(I)(J) → "Take out food" means prepared food or beverages requiring no further preparation to be consumed, and which are generally purchased in order to be consumed off restaurant or retail food vendor's premises. ¶

(J)(K) → "Director" or "Director of Public Works Community Development and Infrastructure" refers to the Director of the Santa Cruz County Department of Community Development and Infrastructure Public Works or their designee. ¶  
 (Ord. 5103 § 1, 2011; Ord. 5116 § 1, 2012; Ord. 5138 § 1, 2012; Ord. 5186 § 1, 2014; Ord. 5291 § 17, 2019) ¶

**§ 5.48.020. Ban on single-use plastic carryout bags—Store charge for single-use paper carryout bags and plastic reusable bags. ¶**

(A) → Retail establishments are prohibited from providing single-use plastic carryout bags to customers at the point of sale, except as permitted in this chapter. ¶

(B) → Retail establishments shall charge a minimum \$0.25 fee for each single-use paper carryout bag provided to customers at the point of sale. ¶

(C) → The charge imposed pursuant to this section shall not be applied to customers participating in the California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children, the State Department of Social Services Food Stamp program, or other government-subsidized purchase programs for low-income residents. ¶

(D) → Notwithstanding the charging requirements set forth in subsection (B) of this section, recycled single-use paper carryout bags may be distributed without charge by restaurants for the transportation of food or beverages that are provided to customers for consumption on the premises, for take-out, or by delivery. ¶

(E) → The ban on single-use plastic bags and the charge on recycled single-use paper bags would not apply to compostable plastic or paper bags used to protect produce, meat, or otherwise used to protect items as they are put into a carryout bag at checkout. Other examples include: paper bags to protect bottles, compostable plastic bags around ice cream or other wet items, paper bags used to weigh candy, paper pharmacy bags or paper bags to protect greeting cards. ¶

(F) → Retail establishments are strongly encouraged to make reusable bags available for sale to customers at a reasonable price. Reusable bags which meet the requirements of this chapter may be distributed without charge during limited-duration promotional events. ¶

(G) → Retail establishments shall indicate on the customer transaction receipt the number of recycled paper carryout bags provided, and the total amount charged for those bags. ¶

(H) → County of Santa Cruz contractors and special events promoters, and their vendors, shall not provide single-use plastic carryout bags to participants while performing under a County of Santa Cruz contract or permit. ¶

(Ord. 5103 § 1, 2011; Ord. 5116 § 2, 2012; Ord. 5138 § 2, 2012; Ord. 5291 § 17, 2019; Ord. 5298 § 14, 2019) ¶

**§ 5.48.022. Recyclability requirements for single-use paper carryout bags. ¶**

Until January 1, 2028, recycled single-use paper carryout bags provided to customers shall contain a minimum of 40 percent post-consumer recycled paper fiber. On and after January 1, 2028, recycled paper carryout bags must contain 50 percent post-consumer recycled paper fiber. All recycled paper carryout bag must and be recyclable in the County of Santa Cruz's curbside recycling program. ¶  
 (Ord. 5291 § 16, 2019) ¶

**§ 5.48.025. Implementation. ¶**

(A) → Sixty days before the ordinance codified in this chapter takes effect, the County of Santa Cruz shall post, mail or deliver a copy of it to retail establishments within the unincorporated area of the County of Santa Cruz. ¶

(B) → The County of Santa Cruz will distribute to each store a reproducible placard designed to inform shoppers of the County of Santa Cruz regulations concerning carryout bags. ¶  
 (Ord. 5103 § 1, 2011; Ord. 5291 § 17, 2019) ¶

**§ 5.48.030. Exemptions allowing single-use bags. ¶**

(A) → The Director of Public Works Community Development and Infrastructure may exempt a retail establishment from the requirement set forth in SCCC § 5.48.020 for a one-year period upon the retail establishment showing, in writing, that this chapter would create an undue hardship or practical difficulty not generally applicable to other persons in similar circumstances. The decision to grant or deny an exemption shall be in writing, and the Director's decision shall be final. ¶

(B) → An exemption application shall include all information necessary for the Director to make a decision, including but not limited to documentation showing factual support for the claimed exemption. ¶

(C) → The Director may approve the exemption application in whole or in part, with or without conditions. ¶  
 (Ord. 5103 § 1, 2011; Ord. 5291 § 17, 2019) ¶



Attachment A: December 4, 2025 Task Force Meeting Minutes  
[Meeting Minutes - Attachment C]  
SB 1053 Bag Ban Progress Report Presentation Slides

**§ 5.48.035. Enforcement.**

Enforcement of this chapter shall be as follows:

- (A) The Director of ~~Community Development and Infrastructure Public Works~~ shall have primary responsibility for enforcement of this chapter and shall have authority to issue citations for violation of this chapter. The Director is authorized to establish regulations or administrative procedures to ensure compliance with this chapter.
- (B) A person or entity violating or failing to comply with any of the requirements of this chapter shall be guilty of an infraction.
- (C) The County of Santa Cruz may seek legal, injunctive, or any other relief to enforce the provisions of this chapter and any regulation or administrative procedure authorized by it.
- (D) The remedies and penalties provided in this chapter are cumulative and not exclusive of one another.
- (E) The Director of ~~Community Development and Infrastructure Public Works~~ may inspect any retail establishment's premises to verify compliance with this chapter. (Ord. 5103 § 1, 2011; Ord. 5291 § 17, 2019)

(Ord. 5103 § 1, 2011; Ord. 5291 § 17, 2019)

**§ 5.48.040. Violations.**

Violations of this chapter shall be enforced as follows:

- (A) Violation of this chapter is hereby declared to be a public nuisance. Any violation described in this chapter shall be subject to abatement by the County of Santa Cruz, as well as any other remedies that may be permitted by law for public nuisances, and may be enforced by injunction, upon a showing of violation.
- (B) Upon a first violation by a retail establishment, the Director of ~~Community Development and Infrastructure Public Works~~ shall mail the establishment a written warning. The warning shall recite the violation and advise that future violations may result in fines.
- (C) Upon a second or subsequent violation by a retail establishment, the following penalties will apply:
  - (1) A fine not exceeding \$100.00 for the first violation that occurs 30 days or more after the first warning.
  - (2) A fine not exceeding \$200.00 for the second violation that occurs 60 days or more after the first warning.
  - (3) A fine not exceeding \$500.00 for the third violation that occurs 90 days or more after the first warning.
  - (4) A fine not exceeding \$500.00 for every 30-day period not in compliance, that occurs 90 days or more after the first warning.

- (D) Special event promoters and their vendors who violate this chapter in connection with commercial or non-commercial special events shall be assessed fines as follows:

- (1) A fine not exceeding \$200.00 for an event of one to 200 persons.
- (2) A fine not exceeding \$400.00 for an event of 201 to 400 persons.
- (3) A fine not exceeding \$600.00 for an event of 401 to 600 persons.
- (4) A fine not exceeding \$1,000 for an event of 601 or more persons.

- (E) Remedies and fines under this section are cumulative. (Ord. 5103 § 1, 2011; Ord. 5291 § 17, 2019)

**§ 5.48.045. Severability.**

If any word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion of this chapter, or any application thereof to any person or circumstance is declared void, unconstitutional, or invalid for any reason, then such word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion, or the proscribed application thereof, shall be severable, and the remaining provisions of this chapter, and all applications thereof, not having been declared void, unconstitutional or invalid, shall remain in full force and effect. The County of Santa Cruz hereby declares that it would have passed this title, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or phrases had been declared invalid or unconstitutional. (Ord. 5103 § 1, 2011)

**~~§ 5.48.050. Effective date.~~**

~~The ordinance codified in this chapter shall become effective six months after the date of final passage by the County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors. (Ord. 5103 § 1, 2011)~~

**§ 5.48.055. No conflict with Federal or State law.**

Nothing in this chapter shall be interpreted or applied so as to create any requirement, power, or duty in conflict with any Federal or State law. (Ord. 5103 § 1, 2011)

**~~§ 5.48.060. Preemption.~~**

~~The provisions of this chapter shall be null and void if State or Federal legislation, or administrative regulation, takes effect with the same or substantially similar provisions as contained in this chapter. The Board of Supervisors shall determine whether or not identical or substantially similar legislation has been enacted or regulations issued. (Ord. 5103 § 1, 2011; Ord.~~

Questions?  
Thank you!



# SB 1215 New Battery-Embedded Covered Electronic Waste Rules

Santa Cruz County Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force  
December 4, 2025

## Senate Bill 1215 – Responsible Battery Recycling Act of 2022



Subject of SB 1215: Battery and Battery-Embedded Product **Recycling** and **Fire Risk Reduction**



- Requires producers to
  - Establish a stewardship program
  - Collect and recycle covered batteries and covered battery-embedded products.

## Senate Bill 1215



SB 1215 signed into law in September 2022

- Expanded the definition of “covered electronic device” to include “covered battery-embedded product”
- Requires consumers to pay a disposal fee upon the purchase of a new or refurbished covered battery-embedded product
  - *Beginning 1/1/2026 consumers pay disposal fee set by CalRecycle in collaboration with DTSC.*
- *Beginning 1/1/2026 requires manufacturers to label covered battery-embedded products with:*
  - *Manufacture’s brand name and*
  - *Battery chemistry used in the product*

## Senate Bill 1215 Covered Battery-Embedded Products



### What is a “Covered Battery-Embedded Product”?

- *A product containing a battery from which the battery is not designed to be easily removed from the product by the user of the product with no more than commonly used household tools.*

### What “Battery-Embedded Products” aren’t covered?

- Medical devices (21 USC § 321(h)) Durable medical equipment (42 CFR § 414.202), and Devices to support/sustain human life (21 USC § 360c(a)(1)(B&C))
- Already covered electronic device (PRC § 42463(g)(1)(A))
- An energy storage system (PUC § 2835(a))
- Electronic nicotine delivery system (15 USC § 375(7))

## Senate Bill 1215 New CEW Forms



CalRecycle issued three new forms that **must be completed** before collecting and recycling covered battery-embedded products

- CalRecycle 186C (Rev. 11/2025)- Application for Approval: Covered Electronic Waste (CEW) **Collector**
- CalRecycle 186D (Rev. 11/2025)- Application for Approval: Covered Electronic Waste (CEW) **Dual Entity** [Collector and Recycler]
- CalRecycle 186R (Rev. 11/2025)- Application for Approval: Covered Electronic Waste (CEW) **Recycler**

*[Note that battery-embedded CEW is not eligible for combined recovery and recycling payments unless it is collected and cancelled after January 1, 2026, pursuant to Public Resources Code section 42478(b)(2)]*

**Questions?**  
**Thank you!**

## Attachment B

Legislative Update – [Changes since June meeting](#), [Changes since September meeting](#),  
[Changes since December meeting](#).

Bills relating to waste management, recycling, and hazardous materials

### Battery Management

**AB 762**, as amended, Irwin. Disposable, battery-embedded vapor inhalation device: prohibition.

(1) Existing law regulates the manufacture, sale, and disposal of various single-use products, including single-use foodware accessories and condiments and single-use carryout bags. Existing law prohibits a store from, among other things, providing, distributing, or selling a carryout bag at the point of sale, except as specified. Existing law defines terms for these purposes. This bill would prohibit, beginning January 1, 2026, a person from selling, distributing, or offering for sale a new or refurbished disposable, battery-embedded vapor inhalation device in this state. The bill would define a “disposable, battery-embedded vapor inhalation device” to mean a vaporization device that **contains nicotine but not cannabis or a cannabis product, as defined, and that** is not designed or intended to be reused, as specified. Existing law authorizes a city, county, city and county, or the state, to impose civil liability on a person or entity that knowingly violated, or reasonably should have known that it violated, provisions relating to the above-described carryout bag prohibition in specified fine amounts, including \$1,000 per day for the first violation. Existing law requires any civil penalties collected to be paid to whichever office brought the action, as specified, and authorizes the Attorney General to expend any penalties it collects, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to enforce those provisions. This bill would authorize a city, a county, a city and county, or the state, to enforce the above-described disposable, battery-embedded vapor inhalation device prohibition and to impose civil liability on a person or entity in violation of the prohibition in specified fine amounts, including \$500 for the first violation. The bill would require any civil penalties collected to be paid to whichever office brought the action, as specified, and would authorize the Attorney General to expended any penalties it collects, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to enforce these provisions. The bill would specify that any remedies provided pursuant to these provisions are not exclusive and are in addition to the remedies that may be available pursuant to specified provisions relating to unfair competition. The

The bill would make any person who violates the above-described disposable battery-embedded vapor inhalation device prohibition guilty of an infraction punishable by a fine of not more than \$500. By expanding the scope of an infraction, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. (2) Existing law, the Cigarette and Tobacco Products Licensing Act of 2003, provides for the licensure and regulation of manufacturers, importers, distributors, wholesalers, and retailers of cigarettes and tobacco products by the State Board of Equalization. Existing law requires every person desiring to engage in the sale of cigarettes or tobacco products as, among other things, a wholesaler to file with the board an application for a license, as specified. Existing law authorizes the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration to suspend or revoke a license described above, as specified, of any importer or any manufacturer that has failed to comply with specified provisions relating to monthly reporting of distributors and wholesale costs. This bill would authorize the department to revoke or suspend any license to engage in the sale of cigarettes or tobacco products, as defined, of any person with a license who is in violation of the above-described prohibition for a disposable, battery-embedded vapor inhalation device containing a tobacco product. (3) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason. [Amended 3/28/2025 in State Assembly, Status: Hearing canceled at author’s request.](#) [Active bill- in committee process, Hearing canceled at request of author](#)

Attachment B

Legislative Update – Changes since June meeting, Changes since September meeting,  
Changes since December meeting.

Bills relating to waste management, recycling, and hazardous materials  
4/29/2025, Last amended 1.26.2026, Active bill – pending referral.

**SB 615**, as amended, Allen. Vehicle traction batteries. Existing law requires the Secretary for Environmental Protection to convene the Lithium-Ion Car Battery Recycling Advisory Group to review, and advise the Legislature on, policies pertaining to the recovery and recycling of lithium-ion vehicle batteries sold with motor vehicles in the state. Existing law also requires the advisory group to submit policy recommendations to the Legislature aimed at ensuring that as close to 100% as possible of lithium-ion vehicle batteries in the state are reused or recycled at end of life in a safe and cost-effective manner. The hazardous waste control laws require the Department of Toxic Substances Control to regulate the handling and management of hazardous waste. A violation of the hazardous waste control laws is a crime. This bill would require a battery supplier, as defined, to be responsible for, among other duties, ensuring the responsible end-of-life management of a vehicle traction battery if it is removed from a vehicle that is still in service, as provided, or if the vehicle traction battery is offered or returned to its battery supplier, and reporting information regarding the sale, transfer, or receipt of a vehicle traction battery or battery module to the department, as provided. The bill would impose related duties on a secondary user, as defined, and a secondary handler, as defined, including, among other duties, ensuring the responsible end-of-life management for a vehicle traction battery or returning a vehicle traction battery to the battery supplier, and reporting information regarding the sale, transfer, or receipt of a vehicle traction battery or battery module to the department, as provided. The bill would also require an auctioneer, as defined, and salvage disposal auction, as defined, to report similar information regarding a vehicle traction battery to the department. This bill would require the battery supplier to pay the department's actual and reasonable regulatory costs to implement and enforce these provisions. The bill would establish the Vehicle Traction Battery Recovery Fund (fund) in the State Treasury and would require the department to deposit all moneys received from the battery supplier into the fund, as specified. Moneys in the fund would be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to implement and enforce these provisions. The bill would authorize, upon appropriation by the Legislature, the Director of Finance to make a loan from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to the fund to meet regulatory and startup costs of the department's activities pursuant to these provisions. The bill would require, upon appropriation by the Legislature, moneys in the fund to be expended to reimburse loans made from other funds for those purposes. The bill would require the department to conduct a study to determine whether there is evidence of abandonment of orphaned batteries leading to environmental and health and safety hazards and, on or before January 1, 2030, and every 5 years thereafter, to post the results of its findings on its internet website. The bill would authorize the department to impose civil or administrative penalties for a violation of these requirements. The bill would exempt a violation of these requirements from the criminal penalties imposed pursuant to the hazardous waste control laws, but would require that all reports and records provided to the department pursuant to these provisions be provided under penalty of perjury. By expanding the scope of crimes, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would restrict public access to certain information collected for the purpose of administering this program. Existing constitutional provisions require that a statute that limits the right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies be adopted with findings demonstrating the interest protected by the limitation and the need for protecting that interest. This bill would make legislative findings to that effect. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish

## Attachment B

Legislative Update – [Changes since June meeting](#), [Changes since September meeting](#),  
[Changes since December meeting](#).

Bills relating to waste management, recycling, and hazardous materials procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason. [Last amended 7/07/2025, in Assembly Appropriations, Status: Committee hearing date 8/29/2025. Ordered to inactive file on request of Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry 9/9/2025.](#)

### Biofuels

**SB 377**, as amended, Grayson. Biomethane procurement targets. Existing law vests the Public Utilities Commission with regulatory authority over public utilities, including gas corporations. Existing law requires the commission, in consultation with the State Air Resources Board, to consider adopting specific biomethane procurement targets or goals for each gas corporation and core transport agent, as specified. Existing law requires, if the commission adopts specific biomethane procurement targets or goals for each gas corporation and core transport agent, the commission to, among other things, ensure that the biomethane available for any procurement program is either delivered to California through a dedicated pipeline, or through a common carrier pipeline and meets 2 specified requirements related to the injection of the biomethane and specified environmental benefits, as prescribed. This bill would instead require that biomethane delivered to California through a common carrier pipeline meet either of the specified requirements, rather than both. The bill would also add the displacement of conventional natural gas that results in a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions as one of the specified environmental benefits, as specified. Existing law requires the commission to consider options to promote the in-state production and distribution of biomethane, including whether to allow recovery in rates of the costs of investments to (1) facilitate direct investment in the procurement and installation of utility infrastructure necessary to achieve interconnection between the natural gas transmission and distribution pipeline network and biomethane generation and collection equipment and of gathering lines for a dairy cluster biomethane project, (2) provide for the installation of utility infrastructure to achieve interconnection with facilities that generate biomethane, and (3) ensure that these investments for infrastructure are prudent and reasonable and provide a direct benefit to, and are in the interests of, all classes of ratepayers. This bill would require, on or before June 1, 2026, the commission to allow recovery in rates of the costs of those investments. Under existing law, a violation of the Public Utilities Act or an order, decision, rule, direction, demand, or requirement of the commission is a crime. Because the provisions of this bill would be part of the act and because a violation of a commission action implementing its requirements would be a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason. [Last amended 3/17/2025, in Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications, Status: Hearing canceled at author's request. Active bill- in committee process, Hearing canceled at request of author 4/7/2025](#)

### Carbon Capture and Methane Reduction

**AB 2334**, as introduced, Bennett. Solid waste: methane reduction: working group. Existing law establishes the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, which is administered under the control of an executive officer known as the Director of Resources Recycling and Recovery. This bill would require the Director of Resources Recycling and Recovery

## Attachment B

Legislative Update – [Changes since June meeting](#), [Changes since September meeting](#),  
[Changes since December meeting](#).

Bills relating to waste management, recycling, and hazardous materials to establish a working group to study the need for and value of alternative methods of methane reduction, as specified. The bill would require the working group to submit its findings and recommendations to the director on or before January 1, 2029. [Introduced 2/19/2026](#)

**SB 285**, as amended, Becker. Net zero greenhouse gas emissions goal: carbon dioxide removal: regulations. The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 establishes the State Air Resources Board as the state agency responsible for monitoring and regulating sources emitting greenhouse gases. The act requires the state board to approve a statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit equivalent to the statewide greenhouse gas emissions level in 1990 to be achieved by 2020 and to ensure that statewide greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to at least 40% below the 1990 level by 2030. The act requires the state board to prepare and approve a scoping plan for achieving the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and to update the scoping plan at least once every 5 years. Existing law requires the state board, as part of its scoping plan, to establish specified carbon dioxide removal targets for 2030 and beyond. Existing law, the California Climate Crisis Act, declares the policy of the state both to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, but no later than 2045, and achieve and maintain net negative greenhouse gas emissions thereafter, and to ensure that by 2045, statewide anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to at least 85% below the 1990 levels. This bill would, for the purpose of meeting, or tracking progress against, any state requirement to achieve net zero emissions of greenhouse gases, authorize only qualified carbon dioxide removal, as defined, to be used to counterbalance the state’s or an entity’s greenhouse gas emissions and would require qualified carbon dioxide removal used for those purposes to meet certain requirements, as specified. Existing law requires the state board to establish a Carbon Capture, Removal, Utilization, and Storage Program to, among other things, evaluate the efficacy, safety, and viability of carbon capture, utilization, or storage technologies and carbon dioxide removal technologies and facilitate the capture and sequestration of carbon dioxide from those technologies, where appropriate. In furtherance of the objectives of that program, existing law authorizes the state board, by January 1, 2024, to adopt protocols to support additional methods of utilization or storage of captured carbon dioxide. This bill would indefinitely authorize the state board to adopt those protocols, and protocols to support methods of utilization or storage of removed carbon dioxide. [Last amended 3/25/2025, Held in Senate Appropriations Committee under submission, Status: Placed on Appropriations suspense file.](#)

### **Composting and Organic Waste Recycling**

**AB 1812**, as introduced, Aguiar-Curry. Solid waste: compostable products: regulations.

Existing law prohibits a person from selling or offering for sale a product, as defined, that is labeled with the term “compostable” or “home compostable” unless, among others, the product is labeled in a manner that distinguishes the product from a noncompostable product upon reasonable inspection by consumers and to help enable efficient processing by solid waste processing facilities. Existing law authorizes the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery to adopt regulations for determining whether products comply with this requirement. This bill would instead require the department to adopt regulations for determining whether products comply with this requirement. [Introduced 2/10/2026](#)

**AB 2112**, as introduced, Bains. Integrated waste management plans: annual report.

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Bills relating to waste management, recycling, and hazardous materials

Existing law, the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, administered by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, establishes an integrated waste management program. Existing law requires each city, county, and regional agency, if any, to develop a source reduction and recycling element, household hazardous waste element, and nondisposal facility element of an integrated waste management plan. The act requires the source reduction and recycling element to divert from disposal 50% of all solid waste subject to the element through source reduction, recycling, and composting activities, with specified exceptions. Existing law requires each jurisdiction to submit an annual report to the department summarizing the jurisdiction's progress in reducing solid and household hazardous waste. Existing law requires the annual report to, among others, identify locations for new or expanded organic waste recycling facilities capable of safely meeting the additional organic waste recycling facility capacity need identified in the annual report. This bill would, on and after August 1, 2027, clarify that the locations for new or expanded waste recycling facilities include, but are not limited to, a medium compostable material handling facility or operation and a small compostable material handling facility or operation, as defined. To the extent the bill would require a local jurisdiction to include additional information in its annual report, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above. [Introduced 2/18/2026](#)

**SB 725**, as introduced, Dahle. Recycling: organic byproducts. Existing law requires the California Environmental Protection Agency, in coordination with the department, the State Water Resources Control Board, the State Air Resources Board, the Department of Food and Agriculture, and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, to develop and implement policies to aid in diverting organic waste from landfills by promoting the use of agricultural, forestry, and urban organic waste as a feedstock for compost and by promoting the appropriate use of that compost throughout the state to improve the state's soil organic matter. This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to enact future legislation that would promote the recycling of organic byproducts by increasing the opportunities for organic byproducts to be recycled into livestock feed. [Status: Referred to Senate Rules Committee \(3/12/2025\)](#).

**AB 2100**, as introduced, Connolly. Organic waste: manure management: interagency task force: [project approval](#). (1) The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 establishes the State Air Resources Board as the state agency responsible for monitoring and regulating sources emitting greenhouse gases. The act requires the state board to adopt rules and regulations to achieve the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective greenhouse gas emissions reductions to ensure that the statewide greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to at least 40% below the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit, as defined, no later than December 31, 2030. Existing law requires the state board to prepare and approve a scoping plan for achieving the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, as provided, and to update the scoping plan at least once every 5 years. Existing law requires the state board to develop a comprehensive strategy to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants in the state. Existing law requires the state board, in consultation with the Department of Food and Agriculture, to adopt regulations to reduce methane emissions from livestock manure

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Bills relating to waste management, recycling, and hazardous materials management operations and dairy manure management operations by up to 40% below the dairy sector's and livestock sector's 2013 levels by 2030. This bill would require the Department of Food and Agriculture to convene an interagency task force to evaluate the role of alternative manure management practices in achieving certain goals and to make specified findings and recommendations based on its evaluation. The bill would require the task force to include representatives from specified state agencies, external scientific and technical experts, and other stakeholders, as provided. The bill would require the task force to coordinate scenario modeling of alternative manure management practices adoption within the dairy and livestock industry under different policy and funding conditions, assess how alternative manure management practices can help the state meet groundwater protection strategies, water quality plans, and working lands climate goals, and facilitate interagency data sharing, technical consultation, and identification of research needs, as provided. The bill would authorize the state board to incorporate the task force's findings and recommendations into updates to the above-described comprehensive strategy, the 2027 update to the scoping plan, and other planning documents as appropriate. (2) Existing law requires the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, in partnership with various government agencies, to identify and recommend actions to address, with regard to both state agencies and the federal government, the permitting and siting challenges associated with composting and anaerobic digestion, and to encourage the continued viability of the state's organic waste processing and recycling infrastructure. This bill would require the Department of Food and Agriculture to convene relevant government agencies, with input from the regulated community, to create an efficient and effective process for approving new projects that manage livestock and dairy manure through on-farm composting or by selling or transferring manure to offsite users. [Introduced 2/18/2026](#)

### **Construction Debris Diversion**

#### **AB 2559, as introduced, Ward. Solid waste: construction debris: diversion: deposits.**

Existing law, the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, administered by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, establishes an integrated waste management program and requires the department to adopt rules and regulations, as necessary, to carry out the act. Existing law requires each city, county, and regional agency, if any, to develop a source reduction and recycling element, household hazardous waste element, and nondisposal facility element of an integrated waste management plan. The act requires the source reduction and recycling element to divert from disposal 50% of all solid waste subject to the element through source reduction, recycling, and composting activities, with specified exceptions. This bill would require a city or county that requires a refundable deposit, performance security, or similar financial guarantee as a condition of issuing a construction, demolition, or building permit for the purpose of ensuring compliance with a construction or demolition debris requirement to return the full amount of the deposit if documentation demonstrating compliance with the terms of the deposit is provided, as specified. [Introduced 2/20/2026](#)

### **Hazardous Waste Management**

#### **AB 864, as amended, Ward. Hazardous waste: solar photovoltaic modules.**

Existing law requires the Department of Toxic Substances Control to adopt regulations for the identification and management of hazardous wastes. Existing law authorizes the department to

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Bills relating to waste management, recycling, and hazardous materials adopt regulations designating end-of-life photovoltaic modules that are identified as hazardous waste as a universal waste and subject to regulations applicable to universal waste management. Existing regulations define surplus materials, as provided, and specify that surplus material is not a recyclable material. [Existing federal regulations exclude from being classified as hazardous waste under federal law certain hazardous secondary material that is generated and then transferred to another person for the purpose of reclamation if specific conditions are met.](#) This bill would make the universal waste designation applicable to a solar photovoltaic module that is intended for recycling and cannot otherwise be resold, reused, or refurbished only until the department adopts regulations implementing alternative management standards for solar photovoltaic modules. [The bill would require the department to institute a rulemaking to develop alternative management standards for solar photovoltaic modules that facilitate greater material recovery.](#) [The bill would require the department to adopt the above-referenced federal transfer-based exclusion regulation for solar photovoltaic modules.](#) The bill would also designate a solar photovoltaic module that can be resold, reused, or refurbished as surplus material. The bill would make a conforming change. [Last amended: 7/17/2025, Status: Referred to Senate Appropriations suspense file, Committee hearing date 8/29/2025.](#) [Ordered to inactive file at the request of Senator McNerney 9/10/2025.](#)

**AB 872**, as amended, Blanca Rubio. Environmental health: product safety: perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. (1) Existing law, known as the Green Chemistry program, requires the Department of Toxic Substances Control to adopt regulations to establish a process to identify and prioritize chemicals or chemical ingredients in consumer products that may be considered as being chemicals of concern. Existing law requires the regulations to include criteria by which chemicals and their alternatives may be evaluated by the department, as provided. Existing law requires the department, following the completion of an alternatives analysis, to provide a regulatory response that may include, but is not limited to, not requiring any action and restricting or prohibiting the use of the chemical of concern in the consumer product. This bill would, beginning January 1, 2028, prohibit a person from distributing, selling, or offering for sale a covered product, as defined, that contains intentionally added PFAS, as defined, unless the department has issued a regulatory response for the covered product pursuant to the Green Chemistry program or the prohibition is preempted by federal law. The bill would authorize a manufacturer of a covered product to petition the department to evaluate a covered product and would require the department to evaluate and provide a regulatory response for a covered product under the Green Chemistry program, as specified. This bill would require the department, on or before January 1, 2028, to adopt regulations to carry out these provisions. The bill would require the department to analyze and comment on the presence of PFAS in industrial processes and products, as specified. The bill would authorize the department to identify and categorize commercially active PFAS present in products distributed in California, as specified. The bill would authorize the department to report on other issues relating to products containing PFAS and emissive compounds. (2) Existing law requires the department, on or before January 1, 2029, to adopt regulations to enforce specified covered perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) restrictions, which include prohibitions on the distribution, sale, or offering for sale of certain products that contain specified levels of PFAS. Existing law requires the department, on and after July 1, 2030, to enforce and ensure compliance with those provisions and regulations, as provided. Existing law requires manufacturers of these products, on or before July 1, 2029, to register with the department, to pay a registration fee to the department, and to provide a statement of compliance certifying compliance with the applicable prohibitions on the use of PFAS to the department, as specified.

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Existing law authorizes the department to test products and to rely on third-party testing to determine compliance with prohibitions on the use of PFAS, as specified. Existing law requires the department to issue a notice of violation for a product in violation of the prohibitions on the use of PFAS, as provided. Existing law authorizes the department to assess an administrative penalty for a violation of these prohibitions and authorizes the department to seek an injunction to restrain a person or entity from violating these prohibitions, as specified. This bill would require the department to use this existing authority to enforce the prohibition on products that would be prohibited by the provisions in paragraph (1). (3) Existing law requires the department, in consultation with the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and all appropriate state agencies, to adopt regulations to establish a process to identify and prioritize chemicals or chemical ingredients in consumer products that may be considered as being a chemical of concern, as specified. Pursuant to that authority, the department adopted regulations known as the Safer Consumer Products Regulations. This bill would authorize, but not require, that those regulations evaluate uses of PFAS in products that would be prohibited by the provisions in paragraph (1). [Last amended: 4/10/2025, Status: Re-referred to Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials.](#)

**AB 998**, as amended, Hadwick. Household hazardous waste: vape pens.

Under existing law, the Department of Toxic Substances Control generally regulates the management and handling of hazardous waste and hazardous materials. Existing law authorizes certain entities to operate household hazardous waste collection facilities, as defined, under permits issued by the department. A violation of the hazardous waste control laws is a crime. [This bill would, until January 1, 2029, require the department to evaluate opportunities to increase safety and convenience related to the management and disposal of vape pens confiscated from students by a school, as provided, and identify any recommendations that require future legislative action.](#) The bill would authorize a household hazardous waste collection facility to conduct physical treatment activities involving the disassembly of household hazardous waste to separate batteries, valves, electronic components and other parts containing liquids or gases, including, but not limited to, the disassembly of vape pens, in a manner that does not result in the unauthorized release of hazardous materials. Existing law authorizes a public agency, or its contractor, to conduct a materials exchange program at a household hazardous waste collection facility to make reusable household hazardous products or materials available to recipients, as a part of its household hazardous waste collection program, if the public agency, or its contractor, complies with specified requirements. The bill would prohibit a public agency, or its contractor, from including vape pens in a materials exchange program. Because a violation of these provisions would be a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason. [Last amended: 7/17/2025, Status: Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.](#)

**AB 1617** as introduced, Alanis. Household hazardous waste: reporting.

Existing regulations require each public agency that is responsible for household hazardous waste management to complete and submit a “Form 303 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Report” (Form 303) electronically to the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery each year. Existing regulations require the reporting timeframe to be July 1 of the previous fiscal year

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Bills relating to waste management, recycling, and hazardous materials through June 30 of that fiscal year, with the information required to be submitted to the state by October 1 of the following fiscal year. Existing law requires a public agency, or its contractor, operating a household hazardous waste collection facility to, on or before October 1 of each year, submit a copy of the completed Form 303 to the officer or agency authorized to implement and enforce specified hazardous materials laws. This bill would require that Form 303 to instead report information for the prior calendar year. **Introduced 1/21/2026**

#### **AB 2245, as introduced, Michelle Rodriguez. Lubricants waste: packaging: producer responsibility.**

(1) Under existing law, as part of the hazardous waste control laws, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) generally regulates the management and handling of hazardous waste and hazardous materials. Existing law authorizes a public agency, as defined, to operate a household hazardous waste collection facility under permit from DTSC. The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, which is administered by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), requires a city and a county to prepare and submit to CalRecycle a countywide integrated waste management plan. The act requires the plan to include a household hazardous waste element that identifies a program in each city and county for the safe collection, recycling, treatment, and disposal of hazardous wastes that are generated by households. The California Oil Recycling Enhancement Act, administered by CalRecycle, establishes a used oil recycling program to promote and develop alternatives to illegal disposal of used oil. The act imposes a charge for every gallon of lubricating oil sold or transferred in the state, or imported into the state for use in the state, as specified. This bill would create a producer responsibility program for lubricants waste that is not covered by the act, and packaging associated with lubricant products, and would require a producer responsibility organization (PRO) to provide a convenient collection and management system for covered products at no cost to residents. The bill would define “covered product” to mean a petroleum-based automotive product and other related products, including original packaging, as specified. The bill would require a producer of a covered product to register with the PRO, which would be required to develop and implement a producer responsibility plan for the collection and the safe and proper management of covered products. The bill would require CalRecycle, in coordination with DTSC, to adopt regulations to implement the program with an effective date no earlier than January 1, 2029. This bill would require the PRO, within 12 months of the effective date of the regulations, to submit a product responsibility plan to CalRecycle. The bill would require the plan to include specified elements, including a funding mechanism that provides sufficient funding to carry out the plan. The bill would require, within 6 months of receipt of the plan, CalRecycle, in collaboration with DTSC, to approve, approve in part, or disapprove the plan, as specified. The bill would require CalRecycle to notify the PRO of its decision. If CalRecycle does not approve the plan in full, then the bill would require CalRecycle to specify the reasons for disapproval or identify the portions of the partially approved plan that do not comply with the program, as applicable. The bill would require the PRO to submit a revised plan if its plan is not fully approved. This bill would require the PRO to implement its plan within 90 days of approval. The bill would require the plan to be fully funded in a manner that equitably distributes the plan’s costs among participant producers, as specified. The bill would require the PRO to reimburse local jurisdictions for costs associated with the collection and management of covered products, pursuant to mutually agreed upon terms, if the PRO’s plan relies on local jurisdictions to collect or manage covered products. This bill would require the PRO to prepare and submit to CalRecycle an annual report describing the activities carried out pursuant to the plan. The bill would require the PRO to retain specified documents, annually audit its accounting books, and

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Bills relating to waste management, recycling, and hazardous materials make documents available to CalRecycle for review, as specified. The bill would require all reports and records provided to CalRecycle pursuant to the program to be provided under the penalty of perjury. By expanding the scope of a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill would require a participant producer, through the PRO, to pay CalRecycle, on an unspecified schedule, an annual administrative charge, as determined by CalRecycle and DTSC. The bill would require the charge be set at an amount that is adequate to cover CalRecycle's and DTSC's actual and reasonable costs of administering and enforcing the program. The bill would provide for the imposition of administrative civil penalties on producers and other specified persons who violate the program. The bill would establish the Lubricant Waste and Packaging Producer Responsibility Fund in the State Treasury and would require the administrative charges collected by CalRecycle to be deposited into that fund for expenditure by CalRecycle, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to cover CalRecycle's cost to implement and enforce the program. The bill would also establish the Lubricant Waste and Packaging Penalty Account in the Lubricant Waste and Packaging Producer Responsibility Fund and would require that the civil penalties collected by CalRecycle pursuant to the program be deposited into that account, for expenditure by CalRecycle, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for activities related to the collection and recycling of covered products, grants for related purposes, and the administration and enforcement of the program. (2) Existing law, the Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act, establishes a producer responsibility program designed to ensure that producers of single-use packaging and food service ware covered by that program take responsibility for the costs associated with the end-of-life management of that material and ensure that the material is recyclable or compostable. The act requires producers, either individually or through participation in a producer responsibility organization, to have an approved plan that, among other things, describe how the producer or organization will comply with the act. This bill would exempt a product from the act if it is packaging associated with lubricant waste products subject to the lubricant waste and packaging responsibility program discussed above. (3) Existing constitutional provisions require that a statute that limits the right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies be adopted with findings demonstrating the interest protected by the limitation and the need for protecting that interest. This bill would make legislative findings to that effect. (4) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason. **Introduced 2/19/2026**

**SB 404**, as amended, Caballero. Hazardous materials: metal shredding facilities.

Existing law authorizes the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), in consultation with the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, the State Water Resources Control Board, and affected local air quality management districts, to adopt regulations to establish management standards for metal shredding facilities for hazardous waste management activities within the DTSC's jurisdiction, as provided. Existing law provides that treated metal shredder waste that is managed in accordance with those regulations is deemed to be solid waste, and not hazardous waste, as provided. This bill would repeal those provisions. The bill would establish a comprehensive scheme for the regulation of metal shredding facilities that would be administered by the DTSC pursuant to authority separate from laws governing the control of hazardous waste. The bill would prohibit an owner or operator from operating a metal shredding facility, as defined, in

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Bills relating to waste management, recycling, and hazardous materials the state unless they have a permit from the DTSC or are deemed to have a permit. The bill would prescribe the requirements for obtaining a permit, for being deemed to have a permit, for operating a metal shredding facility, and for transporting certain materials related to metal shredding, as specified. The bill would require, before a decision is made to approve or deny the application, the DTSC to hold a public meeting, as provided. **The bill would require the department to take final action on a permit application by an existing facility within 3 years, as provided. The bill would require the department to post on its internet website general information about each metal shredding facility that has applied for or obtained a permit, and to conduct at least one site visit to the applicant's facility after receipt of the permit application.** The bill would provide that certain materials related to metal shredding are not hazardous waste if they meet specified requirements. The bill would require any report required to be submitted by a metal shredding facility pursuant to a permit issued to be signed by the owner or operator and certified under penalty of law, including criminal penalties, as specified. Because the bill would expand the scope of a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would require an owner or operator of a metal shredding facility to report to the DTSC certain emergency situations, as specified. The bill would require an owner or operator of a metal shredding facility to submit to the DTSC a closure plan and a cost estimate for closing the metal shredding facility, as specified. **The bill would also require the owner or operator of a metal shredding facility to provide written notice to the department at least 60 days before transferring ownership or operation of the facility.** The bill would authorize the DTSC to enforce these provisions by revoking permits and by other specified means. The bill would authorize the DTSC to adopt regulations for the operation of metal shredding facilities as necessary to implement the requirements of the bill. The bill would require the DTSC to post information provided by owners and operators regarding a metal shredding facility on the department's internet website in a manner that is readily accessible to the public, except as otherwise required pursuant to existing law. Existing law authorizes the DTSC to collect an annual fee from all metal shredding facilities subject to the requirements of hazardous waste control laws or the DTSC's management standards for metal shredding facilities, as provided. Existing law requires the DTSC to adopt regulations necessary to administer the fee and authorizes the DTSC to adopt those regulations using emergency procedures, as provided. Existing law requires the Controller to establish a separate subaccount in the Hazardous Waste Control Account and for all fees collected to be placed into that subaccount, to be available for expenditure by the DTSC upon appropriation by the Legislature. This bill would instead require the DTSC to impose an annual fee on all metal shredding facilities subject to the provisions of this bill, as specified. The bill would require the DTSC to adopt regulations necessary to administer the fee and would authorize the DTSC to adopt the regulations using emergency procedures, as specified. **The bill would require a person who applies for a metal shredding facility permit to enter into a written agreement with the department pursuant to which that person would be required to reimburse the department for the direct costs reasonably incurred by the department in processing the application, as provided.** The bill would require the Controller to establish a new and separate Metal Shredders Facility Account and would require all fees collected to be placed into that account and made available for expenditure by the DTSC solely for the purpose of implementation and administration of these provisions, upon appropriation by the Legislature. The bill would include findings that changes proposed by this bill address a matter of statewide concern rather than a municipal affair and, therefore, apply to all cities, including charter cities. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no

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Bills relating to waste management, recycling, and hazardous materials reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason. [Last amended: 7/17/2025](#), [Status: with Assembly Appropriations, committee hearing scheduled for 8/29/2025](#). [Vetoed by Governor 10/13/2025, In Senate. Consideration of Governor's veto pending](#). [Active Bill - In Floor Process](#)

**SB 501**, as amended, Allen. Responsible Battery Recycling Act of 2022: covered batteries. Existing law, the Responsible Battery Recycling Act of 2022 (battery recycling act), establishes a stewardship program, administered by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, with the Department of Toxic Substances Control, as provided, for the collection, transportation, and recycling, and the safe and proper management, of covered batteries in the state in an economically efficient and practical manner. The battery recycling act defines a “covered battery” to mean a device consisting of one or more electrically connected electrochemical cells designed to receive, store, and deliver electric energy. Existing law defines a “covered battery” to include a loose battery that is designed to be easily removed from a product by the user of the product with no more than common household tools. Existing law excludes from the definition of a covered battery a primary battery weighing over 2 kilograms. Existing law defines a “primary battery” for this purpose to mean a nonrechargeable battery, including, but not limited to, alkaline, carbon-zinc, and lithium metal batteries. Existing law also excludes from the definition of a covered battery a rechargeable battery weighing over 5 kilograms and having a watt-hour rating of more than 300 watt-hours. This bill would revise the description of a loose battery, for purposes of the definition of a covered battery, by providing that a key, application, or other locking device provided to the consumer by the producer of the product or battery that is warranted by the producer of the product or battery to serve solely to prevent theft of the battery or tampering by persons other than the consumer and not to inhibit the consumer’s ability to remove, replace, or recycle the battery would not prevent a battery from being considered designed to be easily removed from a product by the user of the product with no more than common household tools. The bill would [remove the exclusions from the definition of a covered battery for a primary battery and a rechargeable battery, described above. The bill would categorize all covered batteries as either a small format battery or a medium format battery. The bill would define a “small format battery” to include a rechargeable battery weighing no more than 11 pounds with a rating of no more than 300 watt-hours and a nonrechargeable battery weighing no more than 4.4 pounds. The bill would define a “medium format battery” to include a rechargeable battery weighing more than 11 pounds but no more than 25 pounds, a rechargeable battery with a rating of more than 300 watt-hours but no more than 2,000 watt-hours, and a nonrechargeable battery weighing more than 4.4 pounds but fewer than 25 pounds. The act requires a producer of covered batteries, individually or through a stewardship organization, to develop and implement a stewardship plan for the collection, transportation, and recycling, and the safe and proper management, of covered batteries in the state. The act requires the stewardship plan to describe how the producer or stewardship organization will provide a certain number of collection sites for covered batteries in each county, as provided. This bill would instead require the stewardship plan to describe how the producer or stewardship organization will provide a certain number of collection sites for small format batteries and medium format batteries, as specified.](#) The battery recycling act requires all reports and records provided to the department to be provided under penalty of perjury. By expanding the scope of the act, the bill would expand the scope of the crime of perjury, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified

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reason. [Last amended 1/14/2026, Active bill- pending referral](#)

**SB 561**, as amended, Blakespear. Hazardous waste: Emergency Distress Flare Safe Disposal Act.

(1) Under existing law, as part of the hazardous waste control laws, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) generally regulates the management and handling of hazardous waste and hazardous materials. Except as specified, a violation of the hazardous waste control laws is a crime. This bill would create a manufacturer responsibility program for the safe and proper management of emergency distress flares. The bill would define “covered product” to include certain pyrotechnic devices that meet the criteria for household hazardous waste, as specified. The bill would require a manufacturer of a covered product, individually or through a manufacturer responsibility organization, to develop and implement a manufacturer responsibility plan for the collection, transportation, and the safe and proper management of covered products, as specified. The bill would establish a process and timeline for DTSC to review and approve, disapprove, or conditionally approve a plan and for the implementation of an approved plan. The bill would require that an approved plan be published on DTSC’s internet website, except for specified manufacturer data that would not be open to public inspection. The bill would require, on or before January 1, 2027, DTSC to adopt regulations to implement the act. This bill would require a manufacturer or manufacturer responsibility organization to prepare and submit to DTSC and make publicly available an annual report describing the activities carried out pursuant to the plan. The bill would require the annual report to include an application for renewal of the manufacturer’s responsibility plan. The bill would require all reports and records provided to DTSC pursuant to the act to be provided under the penalty of perjury. By expanding the scope of a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill would require a manufacturer or manufacturer responsibility organization to pay DTSC all actual and reasonable regulatory costs for DTSC to implement and enforce the act, as provided. The bill would authorize DTSC to use funds appropriated for purposes that are consistent with this act to implement and enforce the act and would require DTSC to repay those funds, as specified below. The bill would establish the Marine Flare Recovery Fund in the State Treasury and would require the charges collected by DTSC to be deposited into that account for expenditure by DTSC, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to cover DTSC’s cost to implement and enforce the act and to repay the use of specified funds, as described above. This bill would prohibit a manufacturer, retailer, dealer, importer, or distributor from selling, distributing, offering for sale, or importing a covered product in or into the state that contains perchlorate. By adding new requirements to the hazardous waste control laws, this bill

would expand the scope of a crime and would impose a state-mandated local program. (2) Existing constitutional provisions require that a statute that limits the right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies be adopted with findings demonstrating the interest protected by the limitation and the need for protecting that interest. This bill would make legislative findings to that effect. (3) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason. [Last amended: 6/23/2025, Status: with Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials committee. Second hearing canceled at the request of author 7/11/2025.](#)

**SB 811**, as amended, Caballero. Hazardous materials: metal shredding facilities.

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### Legislative Update – Changes since June meeting, Changes since September meeting, Changes since December meeting.

#### Bills relating to waste management, recycling, and hazardous materials

Existing law authorizes the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), in consultation with the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, the State Water Resources Control Board, and affected local air quality management districts, to adopt regulations to establish management standards for metal shredding facilities for hazardous waste management activities within the DTSC's jurisdiction, as provided. Existing law provides that treated metal shredder waste that is managed in accordance with those regulations is deemed to be solid waste, and not hazardous waste, as provided. This bill would repeal those provisions. The bill would establish a comprehensive scheme for the regulation of metal shredding facilities that would be administered by the DTSC pursuant to authority separate from laws governing the control of hazardous waste. The bill would prohibit an owner or operator from operating a metal shredding facility, as defined, in the state unless they have a permit from the DTSC or are deemed to have a permit. The bill would prescribe the requirements for obtaining a permit, for being deemed to have a permit, for operating a metal shredding facility, and for transporting certain materials related to metal shredding, as specified. The bill would require, before a decision is made to approve or deny the application, the DTSC to hold a public meeting, as provided. The bill would require the department to take final action on a permit application by an existing facility within 3 years, as provided. The bill would require the department to post on its internet website general information about each metal shredding facility that has applied for or obtained a permit, and to conduct at least one site visit to the applicant's facility after receipt of the permit application. The bill would provide that certain materials related to metal shredding are not hazardous waste if they meet specified requirements. The bill would require any report required to be submitted by a metal shredding facility pursuant to a permit issued to be signed by the owner or operator and certified under penalty of law, including criminal penalties, as specified. The bill would require the DTSC to have primary responsibility for enforcing these provisions, would require the DTSC to conduct an annual compliance evaluation inspection of each metal shredding facility, and would authorize the DTSC to refer violations to a district attorney or the Attorney General for prosecution. The bill would also require the DTSC to inform the local health officer and the director of environmental health of a county, city, or district within 15 days after the DTSC becomes aware of any unlawful disposal of materials, as provided, and of any enforcement action against a metal shredding facility as a result of that unlawful disposal. Because the bill would expand the scope of a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would require an owner or operator of a metal shredding facility to report to the DTSC certain emergency situations, as specified. The bill would require an owner or operator of a metal shredding facility to submit to the DTSC a closure plan and a cost estimate for closing the metal shredding facility, as specified. The bill would also require the owner or operator of a metal shredding facility to provide written notice to the department at least 60 days before transferring ownership or operation of the facility. The bill would authorize the DTSC to enforce these provisions by revoking permits and by other specified means. The bill would authorize the DTSC to adopt regulations for the operation of metal shredding facilities as necessary to implement the requirements of the bill. The bill would require the DTSC to post information provided by owners and operators regarding a metal shredding facility on the department's internet website in a manner that is readily accessible to the public, except as otherwise required pursuant to existing law. Existing law authorizes the DTSC to collect an annual fee from all metal shredding facilities subject to the requirements of hazardous waste control laws or the DTSC's management standards for metal shredding facilities, as provided. Existing law requires the DTSC to adopt regulations necessary to administer the fee and authorizes the DTSC to adopt those regulations using emergency procedures, as provided. Existing law requires the Controller to establish a

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Bills relating to waste management, recycling, and hazardous materials separate subaccount in the Hazardous Waste Control Account and for all fees collected to be placed into that subaccount, to be available for expenditure by the DTSC upon appropriation by the Legislature. This bill would instead require the DTSC to impose an annual fee on all metal shredding facilities subject to the provisions of this bill, as specified. The bill would require, beginning in the 2027–28 fiscal year, the rates established by the DTSC to be reviewed and increased or decreased annually, as provided. The bill would require the DTSC to adopt regulations necessary to administer the fee and would authorize the DTSC to adopt the regulations using emergency procedures, as specified. The bill would require a person who applies for a metal shredding facility permit to enter into a written agreement with the department pursuant to which that person would be required to reimburse the department for the direct costs reasonably incurred by the department in processing the application, as provided. The bill would require the Controller to establish a new and separate Metal Shredding Facility subaccount to be administered by the Director of Toxic Substances Control and would require all fees collected to be placed into that subaccount and made available for expenditure by the DTSC solely for the purpose of implementation and administration of these provisions, upon appropriation by the Legislature. Existing law requires the DTSC to require metal shredding facilities to monitor hazardous waste constituents requested by the DTSC and to report the results of that monitoring to the DTSC. Existing law also requires the DTSC to collect and analyze light fibrous material at the fence lines to determine the potential for release of hazardous waste. Existing law requires, on or before July 1, 2027, the DTSC to develop a procedure for community notification of the public for the area in which the metal shredding facility is located if that monitoring indicates any release of light fibrous material. In addition, existing law requires, on or before January 1, 2027, an air pollution control district or an air quality management district the jurisdiction of which includes metal shredding facilities, in consultation with the DTSC and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), to develop requirements for facilitywide fence-line air quality monitoring at metal shredding facilities. Existing law authorizes any reasonable regulatory costs incurred by the DTSC in implementing, and requires that the OEHHA's costs to implement, the above-described duties be reimbursed from a subaccount established in the Hazardous Waste Control Account for the deposit of fees from metal shredding facilities. This bill would limit the scope of those provisions to metal shredding facilities that are subject to the other provisions of the bill and would provide for the reimbursement of those costs from the Metal Shredding Facility Subaccount. The bill would include findings that changes proposed by this bill address a matter of statewide concern rather than a municipal affair and, therefore, apply to all cities, including charter cities. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason. **Last Amended 1/22/2026, Active Bill - Pending Referral**

#### **SB 1263, as introduced, McGuire. Contractors: debris removal.**

Existing law, the Contractors State License Law, provides for the licensure and regulation of contractors by the Contractors State License Board. Existing law prohibits contractors from performing specified acts. Existing law requires the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery or another state agency tasked to manage contracts for wildfire debris cleanup and removal by the Office of Emergency Services to prequalify contractors to enter into contracts to perform prescribed wildfire debris cleanup and removal work in communities impacted by wildfires. Notwithstanding the prequalification requirement, this bill would prohibit a contractor

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Bills relating to waste management, recycling, and hazardous materials from engaging in debris removal in a declared disaster area, unless the contractor has one of specified license or classifications. During a declared federal, state, or local emergency or for a declared disaster area due to a natural disaster, the bill would require any licensee authorized to perform debris removal under these provisions to pass an approved hazardous substance certification examination and comply with hazardous waste operation and emergency response requirements, as specified. [Introduced 2/19/2026](#)

### Illegal Disposal Site Abatement

**AB 1153**, as amended, Bonta. [Illegal](#) disposal site abatement. The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, which is administered by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, establishes an integrated waste management program. The act requires the department to initiate a program for the cleanup of solid waste disposal sites and for cleanup of solid waste at codisposal sites where no responsible party is available to pay for timely remediation, and where cleanup is needed to protect public health and safety or the environment. This bill would authorize the [department, upon appropriation by the Legislature](#), to expend funds [to remove and dispose](#) of recreational vehicles, as defined, [to develop](#) enforcement strategies, and [to develop](#) local enforcement teams and illegal dumping enforcement officers, as specified. [Amended: 4/22/2025, Status: Hearing postponed by Assembly Natural Resources committee 5/23/2025. Last amended 1/22/2026, Active Bill – Pending Referral](#)

**SB 1230**, as introduced, Valladares. [Solid waste: illegal dumping: penalties: resources.](#)

(1) Existing law prohibits the dumping of waste matter upon a road or highway or in other locations, as specified. A violation of this prohibition, generally, is an infraction punishable by specified fines that escalate for subsequent convictions. Under existing law, the dumping of commercial quantities of waste, as defined, is punishable as a misdemeanor and also includes escalating fines. This bill would increase the fine for the dumping of waste matter from not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,500 to not less than \$1,500 nor more than \$3,000 for the 2nd conviction, and from not less than \$750 nor more than \$3,000 to not less than \$3,000 nor more than \$5,000 for the 3rd and any subsequent convictions. The bill would increase the fine for the dumping of commercial quantities of waste from not less than \$3,000 nor more than \$6,000 to not less than \$6,000 nor more than \$10,000 for the 2nd conviction and from not less than \$6,000 nor more than \$10,000 to not less than \$10,000 nor more than \$15,000 for the 3rd and any subsequent convictions. The bill would increase the fine for the dumping of commercial quantities of waste by a business that employs more than 10 employees from not less than \$3,000 nor more than \$10,000 to not less than \$6,000 nor more than \$10,000 for the 2nd conviction and from not less than \$6,000 nor more than \$20,000 to not less than \$15,000 nor more than \$25,000 for the 3rd and any subsequent convictions. (2) Existing law establishes the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery and vests the department with all of the authority, duties, powers, purposes, responsibilities, and jurisdiction of the former California Integrated Waste Management Board, except as specified. This bill would require the department to be the lead state agency to act as a resource for cities and counties to address illegal dumping and would require the department to create an internet website with resources to help cities and counties combat, prevent, and clean up illegal dumping, as specified. [Introduced 2/19/2026](#)

### Landfill Management

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Bills relating to waste management, recycling, and hazardous materials

**AB 28**, as amended, Schiavo. Solid waste landfills: subsurface temperatures.

(1) The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, administered by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), generally regulates the disposal, management, and recycling of solid waste, as defined. The act authorizes CalRecycle to certify a local enforcement agency and requires CalRecycle and certified local enforcement agencies to perform specified functions with regard to the regulation of solid waste management, including issuing and enforcing solid waste facility permits. The act prohibits a person from operating a solid waste facility without a solid waste facilities permit, as provided. The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 charges the State Air Resources Board with monitoring and regulating sources of emissions of greenhouse gases that cause global warming in order to reduce emission of greenhouse gases. The act requires the state board to adopt rules and regulations to achieve the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective greenhouse gas emissions reductions, as provided. This bill would require the state board to amend its regulations on methane emissions from a municipal solid waste landfill (MSW landfill) to establish requirements for the monitoring of landfill gas temperature. The bill would require the operator of an MSW landfill to monitor landfill gas temperature in accordance with those regulations. If the gas temperature is 131 degrees Fahrenheit or higher for longer than 2 consecutive monthly monitoring periods covering 60 consecutive days, and if other criteria established by CalRecycle are met or exceeded, the bill would require the operator of the MSW landfill to take specified actions, including, but not limited to, filing a corrective action plan for review by the local enforcement agency, as defined, and the department. If the gas temperature is 146 degrees Fahrenheit or higher for longer than 2-3 consecutive monthly monitoring periods covering 60 consecutive days, and if other criteria established by CalRecycle are met or exceeded, the bill would require additional actions, including, but not limited to, the operator of the MSW landfill submitting corrective action plans to a multiagency coordination group, established by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), as specified. If the gas temperature is 170 degrees Fahrenheit or higher for longer than 3 consecutive monthly monitoring periods covering 60 consecutive days, and if other criteria established by CalRecycle are met or exceeded, the bill would require additional actions, as specified. The bill would require CalRecycle to establish the other criteria by emergency regulation. If an operator of an MSW landfill fails to provide notice of a sustained gas temperature by the specified due date, the bill would authorize CalRecycle or a local enforcement agency to impose a penalty of \$10,000 per day. The bill would require CalRecycle or a local enforcement agency to impose a penalty not to exceed \$1,000,000 for each week that the gas temperature is 170 degrees Fahrenheit or higher for longer than 3 consecutive monthly monitoring periods covering 60 consecutive days, if specified criteria are met or exceeded. The bill would require all penalties to be deposited into the Landfill Subsurface Fire Mitigation Account, which the bill would create, to be used upon appropriation by the Legislature to mitigate harm to a person or community adversely affected by a solid waste landfill with a gas temperature of 131 degrees Fahrenheit or higher for longer than 2 consecutive monthly monitoring periods covering 60 consecutive days. The bill would require any permit suspended pursuant to these provisions to be reinstated when, among others, gas temperature decreases to below 131 degrees Fahrenheit for 3 consecutive monthly monitoring periods covering 60 consecutive days or longer, as specified. This bill would make an operator of an MSW landfill liable to CalRecycle and the local enforcement agency for their costs, as specified. The bill would exempt from the Administrative Procedure Act specified requirements that the bill authorizes CalRecycle to impose on the operator of an MSW landfill. By creating new duties for a

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Bills relating to waste management, recycling, and hazardous materials local enforcement agency, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. Existing federal regulations require the owner of an MSW landfill with a gas collection and control system to operate each interior wellhead in the collection system with a landfill gas temperature less than 131 degrees Fahrenheit, unless the federal Environmental Protection Agency approves a higher operating temperature, as provided. This bill would require an operator of an MSW landfill to provide notice to the local enforcement agency, CalRecycle, and any other state agency designated by CalEPA regarding a request for a higher operating temperature, as specified. (2) This bill would declare its provisions to be severable. (3) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above. [Last amended: 9/03/2025, Status Ordered to inactive file at the request of Senator Blakespear. 9/03/2025. Active Bill – In floor process.](#)

**SB 594**, as amended, Padilla. Waste discharge permits: landfills.

Under existing law, the State Water Resources Control Board and the 9 California regional water quality control boards regulate water quality and prescribe waste discharge requirements in accordance with the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and the federal national pollutant discharge elimination system permit program established by the federal Clean Water Act. The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 prohibits a regional board from issuing a waste discharge permit for a new landfill, or a lateral expansion of an existing landfill, that is used for the disposal of nonhazardous solid waste if the land has been primarily used at any time for the mining or excavation of gravel or sand, except as specified. This bill would prohibit a state agency from issuing a waste discharge permit for a new Class III landfill, as defined, [unless certain conditions are met, including, but not limited to, the county board of supervisors for the county in which the proposed project resides has held a separate publicly noticed hearing to consider whether the proposed landfill is consistent with the goals, policies, and objectives of the environmental justice element of the county's general plan. To the extent that the bill would require counties to perform additional duties related to application for a new Class III landfill, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above. Last amended: 6/24/2025, Status: first hearing canceled at the request of author 7/01/2025.](#)

### Organic Waste Reduction

**AB 643**, as amended, Wilson. Climate change: short-lived climate pollutants: organic waste reduction. Existing law establishes methane emissions reduction goals that include a target to reduce landfill disposal of organics by 75% of the 2014 level of the statewide disposal of organic waste by 2025. Existing law requires the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, in consultation with the State Air Resources Board, to adopt regulations to achieve the organic waste reduction goals. Existing law authorizes a local jurisdiction to count compost produced and procured from specified compost operations towards its recovered organic waste procurement

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Bills relating to waste management, recycling, and hazardous materials target. This bill would authorize a local jurisdiction to include organic material used as a beneficial agricultural amendment towards its recovered organic waste procurement target if the material is processed at a facility authorized by the department using specified approved technologies, and if the material is licensed for end use as an agricultural fertilizer by the Department of Food and Agriculture, [as provided, and the material is not derived from, or processed using, specified activities relating to the final deposition or management of solid waste, as provided](#). The bill would [require the amount of the procured materials to be calculated using the dry weight of the materials](#). Amended: 3/24/2025, Status: Hearing postponed by Assembly Natural Resources Committee. Last amended: 1/14/2026, Active Bill - Pending Referral.

### Plastics

**AB 823**, as amended, Boerner. Solid waste: plastic microbeads: plastic glitter.

The Plastic Microbeads Nuisance Prevention Law imposes a civil penalty not to exceed \$2,500 per day for each violation of the prohibition, as provided, and authorizes the Attorney General and local officials to enforce the prohibition. This bill would, on and after January 1, 2029, prohibit a person from selling, offering for sale, distributing, or offering for promotional purposes in this state a personal care product containing plastic glitter, or a personal care product in a non-rinse-off product or a cleaning product containing one ppm or more by weight of plastic microbeads that are used as an abrasive, as specified. The bill would authorize, until January 1, 2030, a person to continue to sell, offer for sale, distribute, or offer for promotional purposes in this state an existing stock of personal care products containing plastic glitter, as specified. By adding these prohibitions to the Plastic Microbeads Nuisance Prevention Law, the bill would impose the civil penalty for violations of these prohibitions. Last amended: 5/23/2025, Status: Senate 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Assembly Bills 8/27/2025. Vetoed by Governor 10/11/2025, Consideration of Governor's veto pending.

**SB 14**, as amended, Blakespear. State agencies: solid waste diversion: single-use plastic bottles.

(1) The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, which is administered by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, establishes an integrated waste management program. The act requires each state agency to divert at least 50% of all solid waste through source reduction, recycling, and composting activities. "State agency" is defined, for purposes of these requirements, to include the California Community Colleges. The act requires each state agency to develop and adopt an integrated waste management plan to reduce solid waste, reuse materials whenever possible, recycle recyclable materials, and procure products with recycled content in all state agency offices and facilities, including any leased locations, as provided. The act requires each state agency to submit an annual report to the department summarizing its progress in reducing solid waste by at least 50%, as provided. This bill would require a state agency to include in its integrated waste management plan descriptions of actions to be taken to source reduce certain materials, as specified. The bill would require, on or before July 15, 2027, each state agency to submit an adopted integrated waste management plan to the department for review and approval, and would, on or before January 1, 2028, require the department to complete its review of the plans, as specified. The bill would require a state agency's annual report to include summaries of the state agency's compliance with the requirement to reduce solid waste by 50% and the requirements relating to the adoption of an integrated waste management plan. By imposing new duties on community colleges, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill

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Bills relating to waste management, recycling, and hazardous materials would require the department to provide advice to help state agencies and facilities reduce solid waste by at least 50%. The bill would, on or before January 1, 2027, require the department to publish on its internet website a list of products available for purchase by state agencies that would reduce the overall amount of plastic or paper waste generated.

(2) Existing law requires plastic beverage containers sold by a beverage manufacturer, as specified, to contain a specified average percentage of postconsumer recycled plastic. Between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2029, inclusive, existing law requires that percentage to be no less than 25% postconsumer recycled plastic per year, and on and after January 1, 2030, no less than 50% postconsumer recycled plastic per year. This bill would require, on and after January 1, 2026, reportable purchases by state agencies of plastic beverage containers to be of plastic beverage containers with no less than those above-referenced percentages of postconsumer recycled plastic per year. (3) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above. [Last amended: 7/09/2025, Status: Placed on Assembly Appropriations suspense file. Committee hearing date 8/29/2025 - Held in committee and under submission.](#) [Active Bill – In committee process.](#)

## Recycling

**AB 80**, as amended, Aguiar-Curry. Carpet recycling.

(1) The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, administered by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, generally regulates the disposal, management, and recycling of solid waste. The act establishes stewardship programs for various products, including, among others, carpet. The act includes a product stewardship for carpet program and a successor carpet producer responsibility program, and requires the product stewardship for carpet program to become inoperative upon the completion of certain conditions related to the implementation of the successor carpet producer responsibility program. Existing law, the product stewardship for carpet program, requires a manufacturer of carpets sold in this state, individually or through a carpet stewardship organization, to submit a carpet stewardship plan to the department, which is required to include specified elements, including achieving specified carpet recycling rates and a funding mechanism that provides sufficient funding to carry out the plan. Existing law authorizes the department to administratively impose a civil penalty of \$10,000 per day on any person in violation of the program or \$25,000 per day if the violation is intentional, knowing, or negligent, as specified. This bill would instead authorize the department to impose administrative, rather than civil, penalties in those amounts, and to impose an administrative penalty of \$25,000 per day if the violation is intentional or knowing. Existing law requires a carpet stewardship organization to include nonvoting board members with representation from, among others, a retailer that sells carpet. This bill would instead require the stewardship organization to create a governing board for the stewardship program, as specified. (2) Existing law, the successor carpet producer responsibility program, requires producers of covered products to form and join a single producer responsibility organization (PRO) for the collection and recycling of a covered product. Existing law defines a “covered product” as carpet, as defined, and requires the PRO to develop a producer responsibility plan for the collection, transportation, recycling, and the safe and proper management of covered products in the state. Existing law requires, no later than January 1, 2029,

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Bills relating to waste management, recycling, and hazardous materials

a person who removes a covered product as part of the installation of a covered product to transport, or contract to transport, all of the removed covered product to an approved collection site, as provided. Under existing law, an approved collection site is a solid waste facility that has agreed to be a collection site for the PRO. This bill would exempt a covered product from this transport requirement if certain conditions are met, including that it is returned to the producer. The bill would expand approved collection sites to include certain carpet recycling centers, municipal facilities, and retailers. Existing law requires the governing board of a PRO to include 4 nonvoting members, including, but not limited to, a nonvoting member representing a nonprofit organization established to promote a circular economy and to address environmental issues. Existing law requires the PRO to submit an annual report to the department on or before July 1 of each year, as provided. Existing law requires a producer to publish on its internet website, for each of its covered products, an environmental product declaration that identifies a covered product's components, as provided. This bill would instead require one voting and 5 nonvoting members, as specified. The bill would require the annual report to be submitted on or before September 1 of each year, instead of July 1 of each year. The bill would instead require a producer to publish on its internet website, for each of its covered products, the components that constitute more than 1% of the product's weight and any component that is a hazardous chemical, as specified. Existing law requires the PRO to submit to the department an annual report, as specified, and to make the report publicly available on the PRO's internet website. Existing law requires the PRO to provide annual grants to apprenticeship programs for training carpet installers in proper carpet recycling techniques, as provided. This bill would require the PRO to include in its annual report specified information related to the grants and incentive payments provided pursuant to the program, as specified. Existing law requires a producer responsibility plan, among other things, to explain how producers will use standardized stamping or some other means to provide a visual mark on the back of a covered product that is a synthetic material to allow expeditious sorting of the carpet, as provided. Existing law requires the department to adopt regulations to implement the program with an effective date no earlier than December 31, 2026. This bill would instead require a producer responsibility plan to explain how producers will use standardized stamping or some other means to provide a visual mark on the back of a covered product that provides the name of the producer, the date of manufacture, and a listing of the types of face fibers and backing materials contained in the product. The bill would instead require the department to adopt the regulations no later than December 31, 2026. Existing law requires a producer responsibility plan in effect as of January 1, 2025, to continue in effect, as provided, until it expires or is revoked, except that the PRO is required to submit an amendment to conform the producer responsibility plan to certain requirements. This bill would eliminate the requirement to submit an amendment to the producer responsibility plan. [Amended: 7/09/2025](#), [Status: Senate Appropriations Committee](#), [In committee: Held under submission 8/29/2025](#), [Active Bill – In committee process](#).

**AB 473**, as introduced, Wilson. Environmental advertising: recyclability. Existing law prohibits a person from offering for sale, selling, distributing, or importing into the state any product or packaging for which a deceptive or misleading claim about the recyclability of the product or packaging is made. Existing law provides that a product or packaging that displays a chasing arrows symbol, among other symbols, statements, or directions, is deemed to be a deceptive or misleading claim unless (1) the product or packaging is considered recyclable in the state pursuant to specified criteria and (2) is of a material type and form that routinely becomes feedstock used in the production of new products or packaging, except as provided. Existing law, notwithstanding

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Bills relating to waste management, recycling, and hazardous materials specified criteria, provides that a product or packaging is recyclable in the state if the product or packaging is part of, and in compliance with, a program established pursuant to state or federal law governing the recyclability or disposal of that product or packaging, as provided. This bill would delete the latter provision and would, notwithstanding specified provisions, require, before January 1, 2027, that a product or packaging that is a covered material, as defined, be considered recyclable in the state if the producer is approved by a producer responsibility organization to participate in that organization. On or after January 1, 2027, and before January 1, 2032, the bill would require, notwithstanding specified provisions, that a product or packaging that is a covered material be considered recyclable in the state if the producer is, among other things, in compliance with the requirements of the Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act. [Last amended: N/A](#), [Status: Referred to Assembly Committee on Natural Resources](#).

**AB 1780**, as introduced, [Michelle Rodriguez](#). [Beverage containers: redemption payments: exemption](#). The California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act, a violation of which is a crime, requires a distributor of beverage containers, as defined, to pay to the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery a monthly redemption payment for every beverage container sold or transferred, as provided. The act requires the department to deposit those amounts into the California Beverage Container Recycling Fund. The act defines “beverage” to include, among other things, noncarbonated water, carbonated and noncarbonated fruit drinks, and vegetable juice, as specified. This bill would exempt a distributor from making redemption payments to the department for filled beverage containers containing the above-described beverages that the distributor donates to an organization located in California that is exempt from federal income taxation, as specified. The bill would require the distributor to prepare and maintain records of the donations, as specified. By expanding the scope of a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason. [Introduced 2/9/2026](#)

**SB 633**, as amended, [Blakespear](#). [Beverage containers: recycling](#). The California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act requires plastic beverage containers sold by a beverage manufacturer, as specified, to contain a specified average percentage of postconsumer recycled plastic per year. The act requires the manufacturer of a beverage sold in a plastic beverage container subject to the California Redemption Value to report to the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery certain information about the amounts of virgin plastic and postconsumer recycled plastic used for plastic beverage containers subject to the California Redemption Value for sale in the state in the previous calendar year. [Existing law requires the department to post this reported information on its internet website, as provided](#). Existing law provides that a violation of the act or a regulation adopted pursuant to the act is a crime. This bill, [beginning on or before March 1, 2027](#), would require a manufacturer of a beverage sold in a plastic beverage container subject to the California Redemption Value to also report to the department by country of origin the amount in pounds of imported postconsumer recycled plastic used for plastic beverage containers subject to the California Redemption Value for sale in the state in the previous calendar year and to provide proof that the postconsumer recycled content used by the manufacturer for plastic beverage containers has been validated by a third party, as specified. By expanding the scope of a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local

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Bills relating to waste management, recycling, and hazardous materials program. The bill would require the department to post on its internet website the reported amounts of imported postconsumer recycled plastic used for plastic beverage containers in an aggregated form and would exempt the unaggregated amounts reported to the department from disclosure under the California Public Records Act. Existing constitutional provisions require that a statute that limits the right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies be adopted with findings demonstrating the interest protected by the limitation and the need for protecting that interest. This bill would make legislative findings to that effect. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason. Last amended 7/14/2025, Active Bill - In Committee Process (Assembly Natural Resources).

**SB 674, as amended, Cabaldon. Beverage containers: recycling: redemption payment and refund value.** The California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act, a violation of which is a crime, requires a distributor of beverage containers, as defined, to pay to the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery a monthly redemption payment for every beverage container sold or transferred, as provided. The act requires the department to deposit those amounts into the California Beverage Container Recycling Fund. The fund is continuously appropriated to, among other things, pay refund values and administrative fees to processors that receive empty beverage containers from recyclers. The act specifies that a beverage container that is a box, bladder, or pouch, or similar container, containing wine or distilled spirits has a redemption payment and refund value of \$0.25. This bill would reduce the redemption payment and refund value for one of those wine or distilled spirit beverage containers, if it has a capacity of less than 24 fluid ounces, from \$0.25 to \$0.10, beginning January 1, 2026. By expanding the scope of a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason. Active Bill – In Committee Process

**SB 955, as introduced, Blakespear. Beverage containers: supermarkets: reverse vending machines.** The California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act requires the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery to designate convenience zones annually and to ensure that at least one certified recycling center that meets specific requirements is located within each convenience zone. The act defines “convenience zone” as the area within a one-mile radius of a supermarket, and defines “supermarket” as a full-line, self-service retail store with gross annual sales of \$2,000,000 or more, and that sells specified items and some perishable items. The act establishes the California Beverage Container Recycling Fund, and continuously appropriates moneys in the fund to the department for specified purposes, including the amount necessary to pay processing payments to recycling centers and to pay handling fees to certain types of recyclers to provide an incentive for the redemption of empty beverage containers in convenience zones. Under the act, a reverse vending machine, as defined, may be certified as a recycling center, as prescribed. The act prohibits processing payments, handling fees, and administrative fees for dealer cooperatives if a certified recycling center operates in a convenience zone where a dealer participating in the dealer cooperative is located. A violation of the act is an infraction. This bill, for the purpose of defining a “supermarket,” would increase the minimum

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Bills relating to waste management, recycling, and hazardous materials gross annual sales to \$5,000,000 and revise the description of items for sale. The bill would specify that a reverse vending machine certified to operate as a recycling center does not make an unserved convenience zone served. The bill would specify that a dealer cooperative or a mobile unit is not precluded from operating and receiving program payments in the same convenience zone as a reverse vending machine. The bill would specify that an existing certified recycling center is not ineligible for handling fees if a reverse vending machine is located in the same convenience zone. The bill would specify that a reverse vending machine is not ineligible for handling fees because another recycling center becomes certified to operate in the convenience zone in which the reverse vending machine is already certified. The bill would make an appropriation by expanding the entities that would be eligible at any given time for program payments paid by the department from the continuously appropriated fund. By adding new requirements to the act, this bill would expand the scope of a crime, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason. This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Introduced 2/2/2026 Active Bill - In Committee Process

#### **SB 1341, as introduced, Cabaldon. Beverage containers: wine and distilled spirits: processing fees.**

The California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act requires a beverage manufacturer to pay to the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery a processing fee for each beverage container, as defined, sold or transferred in this state. The act requires the department to deposit the fee into the California Beverage Container Recycling Fund, a continuously appropriated fund. The act requires the department to pay processing payments to processors and recycling centers from the fund, as specified. The act requires the processing payment to be at least equal to the difference between the scrap value of the beverage containers and the sum of certain actual operational costs for certified recycling centers and a reasonable financial return for recycling centers, as specified. The act requires the processing fee to be 65% of the processing payment, except as specified. This bill would authorize the department to reduce the processing fee for a beverage container that is a box, bladder, or pouch, or similar container containing wine or distilled spirits if the department determines the aggregate amount forecasted to be collected from that processing fee will exceed by at least an unspecified percentage the aggregate amount needed to pay the corresponding processing payment. Introduced 2/20/2026