

September 14, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, Room 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for SB 619 (Laird)—Organic Waste: Reduction Regulations**

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to respectfully request your signature of SB 619. This bill aims to help local governments implement the organic waste and greenhouse gas reduction goals outlined in SB 1383 (Chapter 395, Statutes of 2016) by allowing administrative penalty relief for cities attempting to comply with SB 1383 requirements. The City supports more time, flexibility, and resources to implement these regulations, which aligns with the intent of SB 619.

Long Beach is a leader in advancing sustainability and is working diligently to implement SB 1383. The City is in the process of finalizing a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change. Implementation of SB 1383 is an integral component of the City's CAAP to reduce short-lived climate pollutants by diverting organics from the waste stream, increasing the development of renewables, and reducing transportation emissions.

Given the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the City's staffing and resources, however, the additional time proposed by SB 619 will help the City fully implement the standards prescribed by SB 1383. As one of only three municipal health jurisdictions in the State, Long Beach has been on the front lines of the pandemic, helping ensure our residents are safe and critical City services remain operational. The timelines contemplated in SB 1383 and the regulations do not take into account the City staff and resources required to protect public health and safety during this unprecedented time, nor do they address the dearth of organics waste infrastructure throughout the Southern California region.

The City supports legislation in alignment with the City's CAAP, in addition to proposals that promote the development of next generation conversion technologies to minimize landfill disposal, create green collar jobs, and utilize waste material in an environmentally beneficial manner. SB 619 is an important effort to help cities meet the priorities for emissions reductions goals through organic waste management. For these reasons, the City requests your signature on SB 619.

Sincerely,



THOMAS B. MODICA  
City Manager

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly  
The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33<sup>rd</sup> District  
The Honorable Tom Umberg, State Senate, 34<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70<sup>th</sup> District

