

June 1, 2021

The Honorable John Laird
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4040
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Senator Laird,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of SB 619 in concept. 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 more time to comply with the regulations. The City broadly 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 supports SB 619 in concept.

Sincerely,



THOMAS B. MODICA
City Manager

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

