



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

June 3, 2024

The Honorable Alex Lee
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 6330
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 2346 (Lee)—Organic waste reduction regulations: procurement of recovered organic waste products

Dear Assemblymember Lee,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I write in support of AB 2346, which would authorize local jurisdictions to be credited for the procurement of recovered organic waste products.

In 2016, the Legislature enacted SB 1383, which required local jurisdictions to reduce methane emissions through the reduction of organic waste disposal in landfills. The legislation sets a statewide target of 50 percent reduction of organic waste disposal by 2020 and 75 percent by 2025. To process and recycle much higher quantities of organic materials, CalRecycle established procurement requirements for local jurisdictions. The procurement requirement for Long Beach includes purchasing 37,400 tons of mulch and 21,700 tons of compost derived from organic waste. However, in an urban area like Long Beach, the lack of organics processing facilities and uses for compost in the City makes meeting this requirement very challenging, which hinders the City's ability to achieve the state's organic materials procurement targets.

AB 2346 would provide local jurisdictions three avenues with greater flexibility in meeting their procurement targets, including 1) credit for procurement of organic waste products through agreements with direct service providers; 2) inclusion of community composting, on-farm compost operations, and home compost operations in procurement targets; and 3) credit for investments in establishing or expanding operations of compostable materials handling, community composting, or onsite composting.

The City supports policies, legislation, and funding to advance the transition of the City's waste-to-energy facility into a regional organics processing resource or other solution for the City's waste management needs. AB 2346 would give financial incentives to local jurisdictions to invest in organic waste processing infrastructure. By allowing investments towards infrastructure expansion, the state will advance the transition from sending organics to landfill and/or waste-to-energy to a more sustainable alternative that puts organic waste products towards a better use and advances the climate change reduction goals of SB 1383. This additional flexibility in what can be counted toward procurement targets will provide a pathway for the City to receive credit for the programs, operations, and investments Long Beach is making to reduce organic waste in landfills.

For these reasons, the City supports AB 2346.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Richardson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 65th District
The Honorable Josh Lowenthal, State Assembly, 69th District

562.570.6801 — mayor@longbeach.gov — [@longbeachmayor](https://www.instagram.com/longbeachmayor)
411 W. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, California 90802