



# MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

September 9, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I urge your signature on AB 2346. This bill would authorize local jurisdictions to count produced and procured compost, as well as investments in procuring recovered organic waste products towards their procurement targets. AB 2346 would authorize local jurisdictions to count up to 10 percent of its recovered organic waste product procurement target with mulch and recovered edible food.

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.

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 requests your signature on AB 2346.

Sincerely,

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

Mayor Rex Richardson  
City of Long Beach

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

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