



We'll handle it from here.™



September 2, 2022

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

Re: SB 1215 (Newman) E-Waste Recycling Program Expansion – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

We, the undersigned organizations, request your signature of SB 1215 (Newman), which would update and expand the state's existing, successful Covered Electronic Waste Recycling Program ("E-Waste Recycling Program") to recycle and properly manage a broader range of hazardous electronic waste.

In the 15 years since the passage of the Electronic Waste Recycling Act of 2003 (SB 20, Sher, Chapter 526), approximately 2.2 billion pounds of covered video display devices have been recycled. By providing oversight, diverting that

material from landfills, and ensuring its proper end-of-life management, the state's e-waste recycling program has prevented the release of untold amounts of toxic metals and other hazardous material into the air, soil, and water in California.

However, to ensure the continued success of electronic device recycling in California, the e-waste program needs to be updated to include more devices and address other issues. Current law covers only a fraction of the types of electronic devices sold in California. Electronics technology is rapidly evolving and electronics are becoming more intricate, specialized, and ubiquitous. Automation, sensors, and artificial intelligence are transforming all industries. The limited scope of devices addressed in the E-Waste Recycling Program does not accommodate this flood of innovations.

In California alone, consumers purchase more than 120 million electronic devices every year, and many will upgrade their devices in just 18 months. Improper handling and disposal of such devices, which often contain hazardous materials such as lead and mercury, can have harmful consequences. At the same time, electronic devices often contain valuable materials such as gold, silver, and copper, and an estimated \$55 billion is lost worldwide each year as a result of electronics being trashed instead of recycled.

When recycling facilities mistakenly shred the batteries hidden inside electronic devices, workers and the public are at risk of exposure to fires and explosions. In particular, improperly discarded products containing embedded lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries pose serious fire, health, and safety hazards. The influx of improperly disposed of Li-ion batteries into the waste stream has resulted in an alarming number of materials recovery facilities (MRFs), waste collection trucks, and landfills experiencing fires. A 2018 California Product Stewardship Council survey found that 20 of the 26 MRFs surveyed experienced at least one fire

during the previous two years, 65% of which were attributed to discarded batteries and 40% of those batteries were identified as Li-ion.¹

Expanding the state's E-Waste Recycling Program will update this successful program to address the influx of electronic waste disposed of in California. Electronics technology has rapidly evolved since 2003, so we must evolve our recycling programs to match the technology-filled world we live in.

For all these reasons, we urge your signature of SB 1215.

Sincerely,



Joe La Mariana, Executive Director
RethinkWaste



Doug Kobold, Executive Director
California Product Stewardship Council

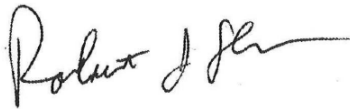


Nick Lapis, Director of Advocacy
Californians Against Waste

¹ California Product Stewardship Council, (2021). CPSC Battery Fire Report.



David Diaz, MPH
Executive Director
Active San Gabriel Valley



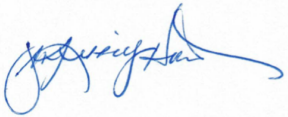
Mayor Robert Engler
Mayor
City of Thousand Oaks



Catherine Freeman
Senior Legislative Representative
California State Association of Counties



Charles Helget
Director, Government Affairs
Republic Services



Jean Kinney Hurst
Partner, Hurst Brooks Espinosa, LLC
Urban Counties of California



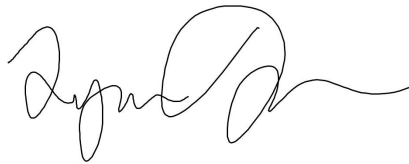
Kathryn Pisano
Environmental Services Manager
Santa Clara County Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission



Emily Barnett
Communications & Government Relations Manager
Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (Central San)



President
Northern California Recycling Association (NCRA)



Tyrone Jue
Acting Director
San Francisco Department of the Environment



Mayor Krista Bernasconi
Mayor
City of Roseville



Leslie Lukacs
Executive Director
Zero Waste Sonoma



Tedd Ward, M.S.
Director
Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority



Garen Kazanjian
Public Policy & Regulatory Affairs Manager
Recology



Tim Dewey-Mattia
Napa Recycling & Waste Services
Recycling & Public Education Manager