



August 4, 2022

The Honorable Chris Holden  
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
1021 O Street, Room 8220  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 1215 (Newman) E-Waste Recycling Program Expansion – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Holden:

We, the undersigned organizations, are pleased to support 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.<sup>1</sup>

Expanding the state's E-Waste Recycling Program will update this successful program to address the influx of electronic waste disposed of in California.

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<sup>1</sup> California Product Stewardship Council, (2021). CPSC Battery Fire Report.

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 support SB 1215.

Sincerely,



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



Emily Barnett  
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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



Tyrone Jue  
Acting Director  
San Francisco Department of the Environment

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Dewey-Mattia". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T".

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