

Board of Directors
Monterey Regional Waste Management District

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-02

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A STATEWIDE COMMISSION ON RECYCLING MARKETS

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WHEREAS, Public and private waste management agencies, cities and Counties are leaders and critical partners in implementing California's sustainability efforts; and

WHEREAS, China recently enacted strict mixed paper and plastic contamination limits and import bans which are collectively referred to as National Sword; and

WHEREAS, China has declared their intent to ban all recyclable material imports by 2020; and

WHEREAS, exporting recyclable materials to foreign and domestic markets is a key component of California's recycling infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, National Sword policy changes in China has led to the decline of other international markets for recyclables, and subsequent stockpiles of unsold materials at California solid waste and recycling facilities; and

WHEREAS, California recycling policy relies on robust international and domestic markets to purchase and process the millions of tons of recyclable waste it produces each year; and

WHEREAS, available markets for paper and plastic materials processed in California's solid waste and recycling facilities are limited causing materials to be stockpiled and slowdowns in processing of other waste materials; and

WHEREAS, local governments across California will soon have to comply with additional state regulations for organic waste diversion and processing. SB 1383 (Chapters 395, 2016) establishes targets to achieve a 50 percent reduction in the level of the statewide disposal of organic waste from the 2014 level by 2020 and a 75 percent reduction by 2025. Infrastructure required to implement these regulations is expected to cost billions; and

WHEREAS, these increased diversion requirements added to recent changes to international policies and a declining global market value for recyclables, has resulted in an issue of statewide concern for the resource recovery industry, local governments, and Californians; and now

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Monterey Regional Waste Management District calls for the Governor to establish a statewide Commission to address these significant challenges to our recycling markets. The Commission should be comprised of state, local and industry representatives with the task of making recommendations for solutions to our declining markets for recyclable materials, including the development of new international and domestic markets. We believe the formation of a Statewide Commission on Recycling Markets is critical if California is to meet its goals for a sustainable future and for recycling to be sustainable long-term.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Monterey Regional Waste Management District at a regular meeting duly held on February 15, 2019 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Carrie Theis, Chair

ATTEST:

Timothy S. Flanagan
General Manager/Secretary of the Board