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SAN BERNARDINO**

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**GOVERNMENTAL & LEGISLATIVE
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GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX
Chief Executive Officer

January 8, 2014

The Honorable Wesley Chesbro, Chair
Assembly Natural Resources Committee
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 94249-0002

Re: AB 323 (Chesbro) – OPPOSE

Dear Assemblyman Chesbro:

On behalf of the County of San Bernardino, I am writing to inform you that we are respectfully opposed to AB 323, related to the use of green materials in landfills. The bill would require the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery to adopt regulations such that green material used as alternative daily cover would no longer be counted as diversion, and would instead be counted as disposal.

The County's Solid Waste Management Division manages five landfills and nine transfer stations. Elimination of the credit for using green material as alternative daily cover at our landfill facilities could greatly impact our operations and costs, while also leading to unintended environmental impacts, including potentially higher greenhouse gas emissions.

The lack of a strong market for compost, insufficient composting infrastructure due to stringent air quality standards, and contamination issues with curbside collected green waste make it difficult to divert this waste stream from our landfills entirely. Excess or contaminated green waste is beneficially used as alternative daily cover. This eliminates the need to use truckloads of clean soil as daily cover and also conserves landfill airspace.

There are other benefits to integrating green material into regular landfill operations. It provides local jurisdictions with a local and affordable way to manage green waste, and it assists jurisdictions in complying with AB 939 mandates and complying with AB 32 greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals by reducing GHG emissions from truck travel to distant composting facilities.

For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino must respectfully oppose AB 323. Please contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs, at (909) 387-4821 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

JANICE RUTHERFORD
Board of Supervisors Chair
Second District Supervisor
County of San Bernardino

c: Each Member and Consultant, Natural Resources Committee
County of San Bernardino Legislative Delegation