



7/28/2020

The Honorable Ben Allen
California State Senate
State Capitol Building, Room 4076
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 54 (Allen) California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act.
Notice of SUPPORT (As Amended 9/10/19)

Dear Senator Allen:

The City of Santa Rosa is pleased to **Support** SB 54 (Allen), the California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act. This bill directs the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to adopt regulations before January 1, 2024 that require producers, which includes the people who manufacture single-use packaging or priority single-use products, to achieve a 75 percent reduction of waste generated from single-use packaging and priority single-use plastic products in the California market by 2030.

SB 54 also requires CalRecycle, by January 1, 2023 and before the adoption of regulations, to finalize an implementation plan that will be comprised of extensive outreach with stakeholders, including local governments. This will give local governments a voice in the creation of the forthcoming regulations to address potential implementation challenges.

Additionally, the implementation plan includes developing incentives and policies to maximize and encourage in-state manufacturing using recycled material generated in California. Developing these incentives will address the lack of recycling markets in California, as recyclable materials once shipped overseas are now piling up with nowhere to go.

In 2017, the Russian River Watershed Association conducted an analysis of trash in the Russian River titled *Russian River Watershed Trash & Litter Assessment Summary Report*. The study revealed that of the total litter items collected (2,578) over sixty percent (60%) were single-use plastic items of some variety (plastic wrappers, plastic bags, polystyrene food packaging, lids/straws and miscellaneous plastic pieces.) In 2019, City of Santa Rosa Stormwater and Creeks cleanup programs removed 1,031 cubic yards of trash deposited directly into our local storm drain system or into the active channels of our creeks. Polystyrene and plastic food packaging are persistent litter items detected in Santa Rosa waterways.

The City of Santa Rosa recognizes the plastic waste problem is not going to be solved entirely by doubling down on efforts to educate the public to recycle better. It can be resolved by implementing policies, such as SB 54, which are aimed to reduce hard-to-recycle items from ever being created and requiring producers of plastic material to take responsibility for the waste their products become.

Office of the Mayor
100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Room 10
Santa Rosa, CA 95404



Cities, like ours, have dedicated significant time and resources to develop and implement their recycling programs and want to ensure city recycling programs continue to be successful. SB 54 will help local governments recycle more materials, throw less waste into landfills, and advance towards meeting statewide solid waste and recycling goals. The City of Santa Rosa is supportive of meeting these goals and applauds your leadership on this issue.

For these reasons, the City of Santa Rosa **Supports** SB 54.

Sincerely,

TOM SCHWEDHELM
Mayor

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c: Santa Rosa City Council
Senator Mike McGuire
Assembly Member Jim Wood
Assembly Member Marc Levine
Senator Bill Dodd
Assembly Member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Nancy Hall Bennett - League of California Cities
David Jones, Emanuels Jones & Associates