

EUNICE M. ULLOA
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City Manager

CITY of CHINO

April 5, 2021

The Honorable Ben Allen
Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 2205
Sacramento, CA 95814

***RE: SB 619 (Laird) Organic Waste: Reduction Regulations
Notice of SUPPORT IN CONCEPT (As Amended 3/10/21)***

Dear Senator Allen:

The City of Chino expresses its strong **Support in Concept** for SB 619 (Laird), which would help local governments implement SB 1383 (Lara, 2016) and the subsequent CalRecycle regulations.

Over the past several years, CalRecycle has been developing sweeping regulations to implement statewide organic waste diversion goals set forth in SB 1383 by Senator Lara in 2016 (Regulations). SB 619 would help local governments implement SB 1383 by allowing for additional time and flexibility to comply with the regulations.

Currently, local governments have until January 1, 2022, to implement the sweeping requirements outlined in the Regulations. Additional time and flexibility to comply with the Regulations is needed to take into account when the Regulations were finalized, the outbreak of COVID-19, and the effects these Regulations will have on city residents and businesses. Although the Regulations had been in development for several years, they were not finalized until November 2020, only giving local governments thirteen months to fully implement various facets of the Regulations. Despite close tracking of the regulations by staff and our hauler, there is still much to be worked out to ensure the success of the City's organics program. We need additional time to secure sites for the City's organics stream, to develop an efficient program that is clear and easy for residents to follow, and to outreach to the community about the changes.

Additionally, the timelines contemplated in SB 1383 and the Regulations do not take into account the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated shifting of City staff and resources to protect public health and safety. Cities have been on the front lines helping ensure that our residents are safe and critical city operations remain operational. Residents and businesses have been reeling and readjusting to constant changes and guidelines in response to the pandemic. While things are improving, the priority is and should remain reopening facilities and businesses and ensuring public safety. City staff need to be able to continue to focus on response and assistance programs that provide food, rental assistance, business assistance and social and community



services. They have already taken on a significant amount of additional work that is critical to the well-being of our citizens.

Without additional time and flexibility to implement the organics program, we are anticipating that the public's attention to the new program and compliance will suffer. Residents are dealing with unemployment, increased costs for consumer goods, and figuring out the logistics of schooling, among other things. The successful implementation of our City's organics program requires that residents understand and commit to the new requirements. Given all that residents and businesses have on their plates, it is unfair and unwise to move forward with SB 1383 at this time.

Lastly, given that the Regulations do not have a source of state funding to implement, the burden of paying for the costs associated with implementing the program will fall to our residents and our businesses. With all of the economic hardships facing cities, residents, and businesses, more time and flexibly implementing the Regulations will be needed to soften the blow of increased solid waste rates.

Cities, like ours, are working diligently to implement SB 1383 and are committed to fully implementing the program. However, given the reasons outlined above, additional time and flexibility is needed to avoid imposing additional challenges and undue hardships during this difficult time and to ensure successful implementation and resident buy-in.

We acknowledge that this legislation is a work in progress, however, cities want to see this legislation move forward to continue the discussions with legislators and all stakeholders to see what solutions can be reached. We applaud Senator Laird for his efforts to help local governments get the additional time and flexibility we need to meet the state's ambitious climate and emissions reduction goals.

For these reasons, the City of Chino **Supports SB 619 in Concept** and urges you to vote "AYE" on the bill to continue to move this legislation forward to further the discussion on this important issue to cities and their residents.

Sincerely,



Eunice M. Ulloa

Mayor

cc: The Honorable John Laird
The Honorable Connie Leyva (Via Email: connie.leyva@sen.ca.gov)
The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez (Via email: assemblymember.rodriguez@assembly.ca.gov)
League of California Cities (Via email: cityletters@cacities.org)
Marc Lucio, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Chino
Karen Comstock, Council Member, City of Chino
Christopher Flores, Council Member, City of Chino