

Draft Resolution in Support of a Statewide Commission on Recycling Markets

WHEREAS Counties are leaders and critical partners in California's leading 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 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 markets to purchase and process the millions of tons of recyclable waste it produces each year; and

WHEREAS Stockpiled paper and plastic materials in California's solid waste and recycling facilities is causing slowdowns in processing of other waste materials and is creating significant public health risks; 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 requirement 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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The County of **XXXXXXX** 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, while continuing to emphasize the need to divert materials from our landfills. The Commission should examine potential solutions including, but not limited to, the development of international and domestic markets, updated compliance standards in this new economic environment, ways to increase source reduction, and any other means that

will alleviate the growing public health and environmental crisis while still allowing California to meet its goals for a sustainable future.