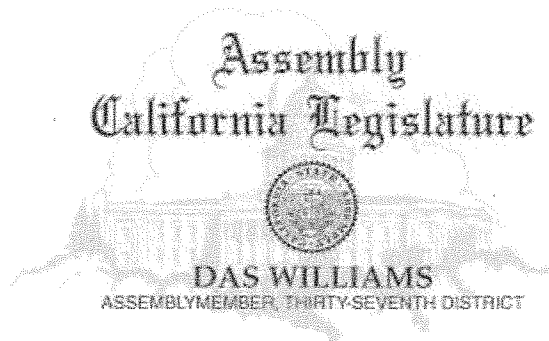


Attachment I

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0037
(916) 319-2037
FAX (916) 319-2137
www.assembly.ca.gov/williams



COMMITTEES
CHAIR: NATURAL RESOURCES
BUDGET
HIGHER EDUCATION
UTILITIES AND COMMERCE
WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
NO. 3 ON RESOURCES AND
TRANSPORTATION
JOINT COMMITTEE
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE
CHAIR: ASIAN AND PACIFIC
ISLANDER LEGISLATIVE
CAUCUS

May 25, 2016

Board of Supervisors
105 E Anapamu, 4th Floor
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Members of the Board,

As the current Chair of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee as a result of my life-long passion for environmental protection that was established growing up in Santa Barbara County. As both an advocate for environmentalism and a native of Santa Barbara, I am excited by the potential of the Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project.

It is important to eliminate organics from our landfills. Organics buried in landfills eventually breakdown and produce methane, a potent greenhouse gas that is contributing to global warming. In 2014, I authored a bill that eliminated the exemption that allowed local governments to count green waste used as daily cover in landfills as "diverted." Even before this law was written, Santa Barbara County has led the way in keeping green waste away from landfills by processing this material into mulch that is reused by local farmers, residents, and parks throughout the County.

The County, the City of Santa Barbara, the City of Goleta, and UCSB have composting programs that incorporate large generators of food waste, but these efforts are not enough. At Tajiguas Landfill, it is estimated that almost a third of what is buried can be classified as organic. This is in spite of the extensive green waste mulching and food waste composting programs currently in place. We need to get all organics out of landfills to make a difference in our struggle against the devastating effects of climate change.

Throughout California, projects like the proposed Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project are using a materials recovery facility (MRF) to sort out organics. San Francisco, which has a dedicated bin for food waste, still uses MRFs to process waste in order to effectively get organics out of their waste stream. Communities like San Jose process waste from apartments, where space for additional trash cans is limited, to pull out organics using MRFs as well.

I am a supporter of the State's efforts to promote Anaerobic Digestion (AD) through supplying local communities with a statewide programmatic EIR on AD facilities. AD has many advantages over traditional aerobic composting. AD is a net generator of energy and can help our state increase the amount of renewable energy we use. Again, I believe this is an area that we can do more in. Our current goal is 33% renewable energy by 2020, but last year I co-authored SB 350, which increases the State's renewable energy share to 50% by 2030. I believe this higher goal can be achieved by adding projects like the proposed Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project across the state.

AD also takes up less space and uses less water than traditional aerobic composting; two resources that are extremely valuable and limited in a community like Santa Barbara.

In conclusion, I urge the members of the Board of Supervisors to strongly consider the benefits of this project when considering the SEIR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Das Williams', written in a cursive style.

DAS WILLIAMS
Assemblymember, 37th District

**DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES RECYCLING AND RECOVERY**

1001 I STREET, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814 • WWW.CALRECYCLE.CA.GOV • (916) 322-4027
P.O. BOX 4025, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95812

June 13, 2016

Mark Schleich
County of Santa Barbara Public Works Department
123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project Anaerobic Digestion Facility

Dear Mr. Schleich,

The Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) understands that the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors may be hearing an item for its July 12, 2016, meeting regarding the Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project Anaerobic Digestion Facility. The purpose of this letter is to provide you and the Board with CalRecycle's perspective on the overall need to expand organics management capacity in California.

CalRecycle fully recognizes and respects the fact that decisions about siting organics management facilities involving composting and/or anaerobic digestion are the purview of local governing bodies and that local decision-makers face difficult choices about such facilities. Accordingly, CalRecycle strongly supports addressing potential impacts from these facilities through extensive community outreach, inclusive of non-English speakers, in the local planning and environmental review processes. A consideration of ways to mitigate potential impacts will protect and strengthen communities and can improve relationships, public relations, and the overall health and safety of residents and the environment. Further, any such facility that is constructed must meet all applicable local and State regulations for the protection of public health and safety and the environment. Ensuring appropriate feedstock and subsequent product quality, along with how such facilities enhance food waste and other organics collection programs, also are important issues to consider in the development of such facilities.

At the same time, these types of facilities and their products afford key benefits to local communities. In particular, there are numerous societal benefits resulting from increasing organics recycling, including:

- creating local jobs for which community members are eligible
- providing renewable power and fuel (from anaerobic digestion)
- reducing water use in landscaping through the application of compost and mulch, and
- improving agricultural soil health so that California can continue to produce billions of dollars' worth of fruits, nuts and vegetables.



In addition, diverting organic materials from landfills is the next key step toward achieving California's source reduction, recycling and composting goal of 75 percent statewide, as adopted by AB 341 (Chesbro, Chapter 476, Statutes of 2011). Californians landfill approximately 30 million tons of waste each year, of which about 40 percent is suitable for composting, mulching or anaerobic digestion. Subsequent legislation (AB 1826, Chesbro, Chapter 727, Statutes of 2014) requires businesses to recycle their organic waste beginning April 1, 2016. This law also requires that, by 2016, cities and counties across the state begin implementing programs that enable businesses to recycle organic wastes. A county or regional agency will also be required to provide CalRecycle with an estimate of organics recycling capacity and processing infrastructure needed over a 15-year period (AB 876, McCarty, Chapter 593, Statutes of 2015). As a result of these and other laws, additional composting and anaerobic digestion facilities will be needed to properly manage the increasing amount of organic materials being diverted from landfills.

Furthermore, greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the decomposition of organic wastes in landfills are a significant source of methane. Reducing methane emissions is crucial to the California Air Resource Board's climate-related efforts, including the AB 32 Scoping Plan and the strategy to reduce short-lived climate pollutants.

In order to meet the goals listed above, California will need many new organics facilities located throughout the State, including Santa Barbara. We urge you to consider these issues when evaluating the facility application before you. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Howard Levenson of my staff at (916) 341-6311 or howard.levenson@calrecycle.ca.gov. I also would like to offer our assistance in general if you have questions about specific waste management issues and/or if you or your staff are working with recycling businesses that need help in addressing permitting and financing issues. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Scott Smithline
Director

Cc: Mindy McIntyre, CalRecycle
Christine Hironaka, CalRecycle
Howard Levenson, CalRecycle
Brenda Smyth, CalRecycle
Clark Williams, CalRecycle
Scott Beckner, CalRecycle
Cara Morgan, CalRecycle
Maria Salinas, CalRecycle