



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING
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 the “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, both the County, California’s recycling infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the National Sword policy change in China has led to a decline of other international markets for recyclables, and subsequent stockpiles of unsold materials at California solid waste and recycling facilities; and

WHEREAS, Local governments across California will soon have to comply with additional state regulations for organic waste diversion and processing including SB 1383, which establishes targets to achieve a 50 percent reduction in the level of statewide disposal of organic waste from 2014 levels by 2020 and a 75 percent reduction by 2025; 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 the increase in diversion requirements added by recent changes to international policies has resulted in an issue of statewide concern for the resource recovery industry, local governments, and Californians; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that this Board of Supervisors supports a statewide Commission tasked with addressing these significant challenges to our recycling markets and examining potential solutions including 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.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California this 29th day of January, 2019 by a unanimous vote of all members present.



[Signature]

Supervisor - 1st District

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Supervisor - 2nd District

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Supervisor - 3rd District

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Supervisor - 4th District

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Supervisor - 5th District

ATTEST: *[Signature]*

Clerk of the Board