



Memorandum

TO: RULES AND OPEN
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

FROM: John Stufflebean

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: 05-21-08

Approved

Date

5/21/08

SUBJECT: SENATE BILL 1321 (CORREA): SCHOOL RECYCLING PROGRAMS

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. The City Council support SB 1321 (Correa).
2. The Committee provide a one-week turnaround for Mayor and City Council review.

OUTCOME

If the Rules and Open Government Committee and the Council accept staff's recommendation, the City lobbyist could begin seeking support for SB 1321 (Correa). This additional support for school recycling programs will help the City to achieve its Green Vision Goal #5.

BACKGROUND

Current state law encourages schools to recycle but does not require them to do so. The California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) provides non-redeemed CRV funds to municipalities through the "Bottle Bill," AB 2020, to promote recycling in California schools and other facilities by providing free containers and technical assistance in starting or expanding recycling programs on campus. School waste, according to a recent CIWMB analysis, is approximately one half paper, one third organics including lunch and yard wastes, and less than one fifth from plastics, glass and metals, whose primary source is beverage containers. An increasing portion of school waste comes from plastic water bottles which are recyclable but often do not get recycled.

This bill would require each school district to acquire and maintain a sufficient number of beverage container recycling bins at each secondary school campus and school district office, to the extent that the district does not incur costs. Under the bill, a school district would be authorized to choose from several options on organizing a beverage container recycling program. It could operate its own beverage container recycling program; it could work with the local Community Conservation Corps or another recycler to collect the school district's recyclables; it could provide a beverage container collection program as a fundraising activity for the school district; or it could continue a recycling program in existence on January 1, 2009.

The bill would authorize the CIWMB and the Department of Conservation to provide, to the extent feasible, specified recycling supplies and materials to a school district upon the district's request. The bill would authorize school districts to enter into an agreement or partnership with a private sector or nonprofit entity to obtain supplies and necessary information.

States as economically different as Kentucky and Connecticut, as well as New York City, already require some form of school recycling. School districts that adopt recycling as a policy and practice experience lower waste hauling costs, often significantly.

ANALYSIS

A fact sheet and analysis of SB 1321 is attached.

COORDINATION

This memorandum was coordinated with the City Attorney's Office, Intergovernmental Relations Director in the City Manager's Office, and the City's Legislative Representative in Sacramento.

POLICY ALIGNMENT

The attached analysis is consistent with the Council-adopted 2008 Legislative Guiding Principles, and the Council-adopted guidelines.

Promote Livability, Sustainable Development, and Environmental Protection

1. Protect the environment through conservation and preservation of natural resources.
4. Promote research, development, production and procurement of environmentally preferable goods.

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10. Promote initiatives and secure funding that address pollution prevention practices, water efficiency and regional, state and global initiatives (e.g. the Urban Environmental Accords).



JOHN STUFFLEBEAN
Director, Environmental Service

For questions, please contact Jo Zientek, Deputy Director, at (408) 535-8557.

Attachment

SENATE BILL 1321 (CORREA) - SCHOOL RECYCLING PROGRAMS

What issue is the bill is trying to resolve?

Several issues would be addressed by this bill, including:

- the low rate of school recycling compared to residences and businesses in California,
- the importance of promoting zero waste in schools, both for their immediate source of recyclable waste and their role creating future recyclers and environmental stewards,
- the safeguarding of natural resources and energy that recycling achieves,
- and the promotion of recycled content products and procurement.

CIWMB estimates that California schools generate over 763,000 tons each year, with each student producing approximately 67 pounds per year, for a potential 6,700 tons in San José alone. CIWMB has found that recycling improves worker safety, decreases purchasing costs, reduces long-term liability and increases efficiency of school operations. CIWMB reports that schools that have implemented recycling programs have diverted as much as 80% of their waste.

How would the passage of this bill affect San José ?

The bill would help the City reach its Green Vision zero waste goal and its interim 75% goal. It would assist school districts in saving a significant portion of their budgets now spent on waste hauling of air and recyclable materials, and help control hauling cost increases. It would help save valuable natural resources and energy by recycling beverage containers. It would reinforce the recycling of paper. It would help foster environmental stewardship values and habits in this generation of students.

What is staff's Proposed Position?

Staff recommends that the City support SB1321. An amendment could be added to reinforce the use of local municipal recycling assistance programs, such as the City's Go Green Schools Program, which provides free recycling containers and technical assistance.

Who are the bill's supporters and opponents?

Supporters: American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, American Chemistry Council, California Association of Local Conservation Corps, California Chapters of the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, California School Employees Association, California State Association of Counties, Regional Council of Rural Counties. Co-authors include Senators Padilla, Romero, and Torlakson. There are no known opponents to the bill.

What is the current status of the measure?

SB1321 was last amended on April 23. On May 12 it was passed out of Senate Appropriations and referred to third reading.