

# Memorandum

**TO:** RULES AND OPEN  
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

**FROM:** John Stufflebean

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** 04-28-09

Approved

*Christine J. Shippy*

Date

*4/28/09*

**SUBJECT: SENATE BILL 497 (CORREA), SCHOOL RECYCLING PROGRAMS**

## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. The City Council support SB 497 (Correa), School Recycling Programs.
2. The Committee provide a one-week turnaround for Mayor and City Council review.

## OUTCOME

If the Rules and Open Government Committee and the City Council accept staff's recommendation, the City's representative in Sacramento could begin seeking support for SB 497 (Correa).

## BACKGROUND

The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 requires that all California cities and counties divert 50% of solid waste generation. School districts can play a critical role in a city or county's ability to realize this goal. Existing law requires the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) to encourage school recycling practices, but it does not mandate school recycling. In California alone, the schools dispose of more than 760,000 tons of waste to landfill each year of which up to 20% consists of bottles and cans. This amounts to over 150,000 tons of bottles and cans that have the potential to be utilized in commerce again, preserving natural resources such as oil, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and supporting California's (and San Jose's) burgeoning green industries. According to the Department of Conservation, only 14.7 billion of the 22 billion beverage containers bought last year in California were recycled. Although the waste generated from school districts is only about 2% of the statewide waste stream, within an individual jurisdiction, school district waste can represent as much as 10% to 15% of the total waste stream.

Most importantly, while children account for only 4% of the state's waste stream, they represent 100% of the future for our environment. Schools have a great opportunity to create the next generation of environmental stewards. It is critical to foster environmental stewardship during the K-12 years when values are being shaped. Recycling is an effective start to the development of environmental ethics in coming generations.

### **ANALYSIS**

A fact sheet and analysis of SB 497 is attached.

### **COORDINATION**

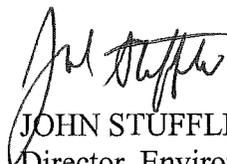
This memorandum was coordinated with the City Attorney's Office, Intergovernmental Relations Director in the City Manager's Office, and the City's Legislative Representative in Sacramento.

### **POLICY ALIGNMENT**

The attached analysis is consistent with the Council-adopted 2009 Legislative Guiding Principles, and the Council-adopted guidelines:

#### **Promote Livability, Sustainable Development, and Environmental Protection**

- Promote initiatives and secure funding that address climate change, and supports San Jose's Green Vision efforts to become a Sustainable City, through Green Building initiatives, pollution prevention practices, water, waste, and energy efficiency, and regional, state and global initiatives (e.g. the Urban Environmental Accords).
- Supports Source Reduction and increased recycling and composting in order to achieve zero waste.

  
JOHN STUFFLEBEAN  
Director, Environmental Service

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

## **SB 497 (CORREA), SCHOOL RECYCLING PROGRAMS**

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*What issue is the bill is trying to resolve?*

This bill is trying to improve the low rate of recycling at schools as compared to residences and businesses in California. School districts have few resources to devote to new programs. Until January 1, 2012, this bill requires school districts to seek assistance from existing resources to establish beverage container recycling programs, but only to the extent that the district does not incur any additional costs. Additionally, the California Integrated Waste Management Board will provide recycling supplies and materials to districts that request them and the California Conservation Corps can pick up beverage containers free of charge.

*How would the passage of this bill affect San Jose?*

This bill would, until January 1, 2012, require each public school and school district office in the state to consult with the local Community Conservation Corps or another recycler to provide and maintain a sufficient number of beverage container recycling bins for participation in a local recycling program or to administer its own recycling program. Under the bill, a school district could choose to either utilize beverage container recycling as a district revenue stream, to operate its own beverage container recycling program, to contact its local Community Conservation Corps or another recycler to collect the beverage containers, or to continue a recycling program in existence on January 1, 2009.

The California Department of Conservation shall make available to school districts information, supplies and beverage container recycling bins, subject to the availability of funds. This may help mitigate any financial impacts a school district may have in instituting beverage container recycling.

Currently, the San José Go Green Schools Program (SJGG) with the Environmental Services Department/ Integrated Waste Management Division provides free recycling bins and containers for paper, bottles and cans upon request. SJGG works with the San José Resource Area for Teaching (RAFT), to distribute recycling containers to schools and school districts. Additionally, SJGG offers annual mini-grants to help start programs such as recycling. Passage of this bill would help the SJGG program succeed in fostering environmental stewardship and help San José reach its Green Vision goal to divert 100% of the waste from our landfills.

It is important to note that the Go Green Schools Program has sufficient resources to address additional demand on the recycling supplies it makes available to San Jose schools that might be generated by this bill. The City of San José has more than 300 schools in 19 school districts. This bill would help institute recycling programs in more schools, reducing the burden they place on our local landfills, and increase participation in San Jose's Go Green Schools Program. In the first 2 years of the San José Go Green Schools program nearly 1,000 bottle and can recycling containers have been provided to San José

schools, with an estimated 50,000 bottles and cans being recycled as a result. The schools that have benefited from our free recycling containers represent less than one-third of the more than 300 schools in San José. Should each school in San José start a recycling program these recycling numbers have the potential to significantly increase.

This bill would also assist in helping the City reach its Green Vision zero waste goal (#5) to divert 100 percent of waste from our landfills as well as Action 4 of the Urban Environmental Accords to achieve zero waste. It has the potential to help schools and school districts save money spent on hauling costs by removing recyclables from their trash, thus requiring smaller trash bins and less frequent trash pickup. Furthermore, this bill would help save valuable natural resources, as well as instill environmental stewardship values and habits in our students. It may also lead to further recycling programs. School recycling of beverage containers tends to reinforce the recycling of paper and encourages recycling of other materials including electronics, organics and construction / demolition waste.

A good example of the benefits of school recycling has been demonstrated by San Jose's Noddin Elementary School. Their recycling program reduced lunchtime trash from 387 pounds to 52 pounds per day reducing their trash hauling costs accordingly while creating a revenue stream from the recyclables it generates.

The State is required to reimburse local agencies and school districts for costs incurred due to state mandated programs. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill includes costs mandated by the state, reimbursements will be made pursuant to statutory provisions.

*What is staff's Proposed Position?*

Staff recommends that the City support SB 497.

*Who are the bill's supporters and opponents?*

Supporters

American Chemistry Council  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees  
California State Association of Counties  
California School Employees Association  
California Teachers Association  
Association of California School Administrators  
California State Parent Teacher Association

Opponents

The California Department of Conservation because of the additional burden it could place on their finite program resources.

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**Subject: Senate Bill No. 497 (Correa), School Recycling Programs**

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*What is the current status of the measure?*

SB 497 is set for a hearing in the Senate's Committee on Environmental Quality on April 27, 2009.

## **SB 497 (CORREA), SCHOOL RECYCLING PROGRAMS**

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