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May 26, 2022

The Honorable Robert Rivas
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5110
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1985 (R. Rivas) Organic Waste. List. Available Products.
Notice of SUPPORT (As Introduced)**

Dear Assemblymember Robert Rivas,

The City of Vista is pleased to support AB 1985, which would create an online database of organic waste products on the market to enable local governments to connect with local farmers and community members seeking their products.

Organics like food scraps, yard trimmings, paper, and cardboard make up half of what Californians dump in landfills and emit 20% of the state's methane. In a critical effort to reduce methane and other short-lived climate pollutant emissions, California set organic waste diversion targets of 50% by 2020 and 75% by 2025 (SB 1383, Lara, 2016). To drive infrastructure investment and create demand for organic waste products, the SB 1383 regulations required cities and counties by January 1, 2022, to procure a specific quantity of organic waste products based on their population.

Jurisdictions can fulfill these annual procurement targets by procuring any combination of organic waste products such as compost, mulch, or renewable energy. These organic waste products offer benefits to local communities like Vista by improving soil and air quality, creating green jobs to help the economy, and supporting Climate Action Plans.

As jurisdictions ramp up their organic waste collection programs, many cities and counties are struggling to meet their procurement targets due to a limited amount of organic waste infrastructure across the state. In many cases, local governments also struggle to connect with end markets for the organic waste they do process. Jurisdictions are seeking unique and creative pathways to help them achieve these targets while simultaneously vitalize a growing organic waste recycling market.

AB 1985 will assist local governments in achieving their procurement targets by creating an online database of organic waste products on the market across the state. This online database will enable local governments to connect directly with local farmers and community members seeking their products. With cities and counties required to procure large amounts of compost and mulch per year, this bill will help facilitate these products going somewhere they are needed, while also maximizing the benefits to local communities.

For these reasons, the City of Vista supports AB 1985 (R. Rivas).

Sincerely,

Judy Ritter
Mayor

cc: Office of Senator Patricia Bates, Cynthia.Bryant@sen.ca.gov
Office of Assemblymember Tasha Boerner Horvath, Celia.Mata@asm.ca.gov
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