



September 18, 2007

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol, First Floor **FAX: 916-445-4633**
Sacramento, CA 95814 **RE: AB 548 (Levine) Multifamily Dwelling Recycling -- Support**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

The Northern California Recycling Association encourages you to sign into law Assembly Bill 548 requiring multi-family dwelling owners to arrange recycling services for their buildings. AB 548 aims to close the curbside recycling gap for multifamily dwellings. It will require that an owner of a multifamily dwelling – 5 or more units -- provide appropriate recycling services for the dwelling in accordance with the community's recycling plan.

While California overall is estimated by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) to be diverting more than 50 % of its generated wastes, the Board also estimates that just 15% of waste generated at multi-family dwelling is currently diverted. Californians in multi-family dwellings account for 26 % of the residential waste stream.

A 2004 CIWMB waste stream analysis found that 26.4% percent of the multi-family waste stream was recyclable; almost 900,000 tons of recyclable materials were wasted. No more than 40 percent of Californians living in multi-family dwellings have access to a residential recycling opportunity—and many of them are unaware of it.

Expanding curbside recycling to multifamily dwellings could divert an additional 329,000 tons of recyclable materials. Additionally this increased recycling will help in reducing greenhouse gas emissions by nearly one million tons. All Californians deserve the opportunity to recycle, regardless of whether they live in a single family home or a multifamily dwelling.

We also urge you to approve a complementary bill, SB 1021 by Senator Padilla, which would authorize use for one-year of California Redemption Value (CRV) funds by the Department of Conservation to pay non-profit organizations to inform and motivate these hitherto-underserved residents to take advantage of their new opportunity to conserve resources by recycling.

For a sustainable society,

Mary Lou Van Deventer, President
(marylouvan@sbcglobal.net; 510-232-7724)

David Isaac Tam, Legislation Chair
(daviditam2@gmail.com; 510-472-5723)

