



MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

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September 18, 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
VIA FACSIMILE: (916) 445-4633

**RE: AB 548 (Levine) Multifamily Dwelling Recycling – Support**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

As Mayor of the City of Santa Cruz, I am writing to strongly urge your support of Assembly Bill (AB) 548, which will increase California's recycling rate by expanding recycling opportunities at multifamily dwellings.

While California overall is diverting more than 50 percent of its generated waste, it is estimated that just 15 percent of waste generated at multifamily dwellings is currently diverted. While just 19.1 percent of Californians live in multifamily dwellings, these housing units account for 26 percent of the residential waste stream. AB 548 is aimed at increasing recycling in California by closing the curbside recycling gap for multifamily dwellings.

A 2004 waste-stream analysis by the California Integrated Waste Management Board found that 26.4 percent of the multifamily dwelling waste stream is recyclable, and that more than 894,687 tons of recyclable materials from multifamily dwelling residents are currently being landfilled.

While nearly 70 percent of Californians living in single-family homes have access to curbside recycling, no more than 40 percent of those living in multifamily dwellings have access to a residential recycling opportunity—and many of those who do have access are unaware of it.

While the City of Santa Cruz offers recycling opportunities to all residents of the City, our efforts are often thwarted by multifamily dwelling managers who find recycling "too difficult." AB 548 will require that an owner of a multifamily dwelling provide appropriate recycling services for the dwelling in accordance with the local jurisdiction's recycling plan. We believe that this is the incentive needed to encourage multifamily dwelling managers to do the right thing.