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The views expressed in this letter do
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P.O. Box 607

Clovis, CA

93613-0607

916.441.CRRA [2772]

Fax 916.676-4882

California Resource Recovery Association

March 27, 2009

Honorable Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: 916-558-3160

Regarding: SB 44 (Denham) Abolish the California Integrated Waste
Management Board

Position: **Oppose**

Since its establishment in 1989 the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) has helped California become the nation's leader in waste reduction, resource conservation, and dozens of related environmental initiatives. As an active participant and stakeholder in a great many of the CIWMB's activities since 1989, CRRA attributes much of this success to the access to, and collaboration with an independent, executive Board as currently structured.

SB44 attempts to address discontent with Board member political appointments. But rather than eliminating them, the Board member positions could be subject to defined qualifications based on experience (as is the case with other California boards and commissions), through amendment of the Public Resources Code Section 40401.

SB44 attempts to contribute to resolving the State's budget deficit through the elimination of board member positions. But since these positions receive no General Fund monies SB44 would do nothing to address the budget deficit.

The CIWMB plays a critical role in California's response to global climate change, and SB44 would cause detrimental turmoil and delay to this work. Furthermore, the work of the CIWMB is increasingly aligned with the California Air Resources Board and other agencies within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It would be a mistake to separate CIWMB from EPA at a time when their integration is critically important.

The CIWMB's historic successes are the result of proactive collaboration with and access to an independent, executive Board by the local jurisdictions, industry representatives, and the other stakeholders CRRA represents. SB44 would eliminate the very attributes that have contributed, and continue to contribute to the CIWMB's successes.

J. Muir

Julie Muir
President, CRRA

Cc: Senator Jeff Denham
Fax (916) 445-0773

AFFILIATE OF



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RECYCLING
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INC.
<http://www.nrc-recycle.org>