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**AB 2411 (McCarty) California Compost**

**Sponsor:** Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, Chair, Select Committee on Waste Reduction and Recycling  
**Staff Contact:** Alex Harold, (916) 319-2007  
**As introduced:** As Amended March 21, 2018

**SUMMARY**

AB 2411 will spur a market demand for compost created in California by requiring public agencies to study the feasibility and establish best practices for using compost. Compost is the end result of diverting organic waste from landfills to composting facilities, greatly reducing climate change causing emissions.

**ISSUE**

Organic waste composting allows organic material, which would otherwise release greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, to be diverted from landfills to compost facilities. The waste material is then converted to nutrient-rich compost used in agriculture, landscaping, and erosion control along with preventing millions of tons of GHGs from being released into the atmosphere.

Composting is the most cost effective and efficient method for reducing GHGs. A recent LAO study on California's climate investments, found that 1 ton of GHGs was reduced for every \$4 spent on organics loans and \$10 spent on organics grants. Compared to the average of \$57 per ton of GHG abatement, organics programs are the most cost effective way to reduce climate change causing pollutants. Also, composting is a job creator, on a per ton basis; a compost facility employs twice as many workers than a landfill.

California is a leader in composting and organics recycling. SB 1383 (Lara), set the ambitious statewide goal of 75% organics diversion from landfills by 2025. To achieve this goal, there will need to be at least a tripling of the number of organic waste recycling facilities in California.

As a result, there will be an at least tripling of the amount of compost produced by these facilities and a need for available markets for these products. Absent a market demand, it will be difficult to actually find financing to build these much need facilities.

**SOLUTION**

AB 2411 will require public agencies to study the feasibility and establish best practices for using compost. This will spur a much needed market demand for compost and thereby ensure that there is an available market for compost as California rapidly ramps up its production of compost.

Organic recycling is the most cost effective way for California to reach its climate goals. Ensuring a healthy market for compost is a vital component of the state's plan to combat climate change.

**SUPPORT**

Association of Compost Producers

California Compost Coalition  
California League of Conservation Voters  
Californians Against Waste  
Community Alliance with Family Farmers  
Republic Services  
Sierra Club CA