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To: [Dunn, Cynthia@CalRecycle](mailto:Dunn.Cynthia@CalRecycle)
Subject: March 22, 2017 Packaging Reform Workshop Comments
Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 3:47:50 PM

Cynthia,

I attended the March 22nd workshop on packaging reform initiatives with another staff member from the San Jose's Integrated Waste Management Division (IWM). We have the following comments for consideration:

- Initiatives that aim to reduce the amount of single use disposables and non-recyclable materials at the source would be beneficial to us.
 - The burden of addressing litter and illegal dumping in public right-of-ways has fallen to the local municipalities and is resource intensive.
 - Source reduction of materials that are commonly found in creek cleanups, around public litter cans, and illegal dumping sites would have the most impact to not only the City's expenses, but also reduce the amount of these materials that go to landfill.
 - In 2016, litter surveys were completed for San José during creek cleanups:
 - "Other plastic products," such as cups, lids, straws, and other hard debris, were the most commonly identified items. These accounted for approximately 26% of trash volumes.
 - Paper and cardboard, including paper cups and paper cartons, were the second most prevalent materials, totaling about 23% of trash sorted.
 - Other fast food/convenience items such as plastic utensils and wrappers came in third with 13% of total trash, textiles accounted for about 7%, and plastic bags rounded out the top five at almost 7%.
 - In addition to the prevalence of these materials in creek cleanups, similar items also contribute to litter and debris issues related to public litter cans.
 - The relative location of a public litter can to a takeout/convenience establishment is often correlated to the amount of maintenance and/or cleanliness of the litter can, which is completed by city staff.
 - Customers often purchase items at these establishments, immediately consume them, and then dispose the waste materials just offsite in publicly maintained litter cans.
 - Because much of the material contributing to creek cleanups and public litter can issues is related to single-use disposables, efforts reducing the use of items would be helpful.
 - A model similar to SB270, which bans single-use carryout bags, would likely be an effective measure to aid in this effort. Since the implementation of SB270, we've seen a decrease in the number of single use bags contributing to litter and debris.

- A ban on polystyrene foam disposable food service ware is another example of such effort by the city.
- Consideration of a fee at the point of sale, or other similar measures, for many of these single use disposable products could be helpful.
- At the workshop on March 22, 2017, there was a consensus for the effectiveness of package labelling that inform the public of the recyclability of waste materials.
 - Our waste facilities often cannot recycle what falls into “packaging,” (i.e. film plastics, higher number plastics) so these are landfilled as residue. Any actions to minimize these materials would be helpful.
- We think measures that would heavily impact the cost or access to disposal of materials for residents would be problematic if not thoughtfully designed, and adding any hurdles to waste disposal could lead to an increase in the amount of dumping and/or litter observed, which is resource intensive to cleanup.

As recommended by the panel at the workshop, if a focus group is formed for these efforts, we would like to actively participate as a member of the focus group.

Please let me know if you would like to talk further about any of this.

Thanks,

Anne Hansen

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