Guidance to Recycling Centers and Beverage Retailers per Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-54-20

For Beverage Retailers:

What the Executive Order says: Paragraph 10 of the executive order states that “Public Resources Code Section 14571.6, subdivisions (a) and (b) is suspended for a period of 60 days.”

What this means to you: Beverage dealers in unserved convenience zones that are currently required to either redeem empty beverage containers (“Option A”) or pay $100 per day to CalRecycle (“Option B”) are relieved of this obligation until June 21, 2020. They may continue to redeem empty beverage containers at their discretion and in accordance with federal, state, and local physical distancing guidelines and safety requirements.

For questions regarding beverage dealer requirements related to unserved convenience zones, please contact Lisa Fernandez at (916) 327-7600 or lisa.fernandez@calrecycle.ca.gov.

For Recycling Centers:

What the Executive Order says: Paragraph 11 of the executive order states that “Public Resources Code section 14585, and California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 2500, are suspended for a period of 60 days to the extent that either requires a recycling center to operate a minimum number of hours per week or remain open during specific periods of time, and recycling centers shall be permitted to receive handling fees in accordance with guidelines for weekly hours and times of operation developed and issued by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery.”

What this means to you: Recycling centers may either 1) continue to operate as per usual, 2) operate with reduced hours, or 3) be temporarily closed until June 21, 2020, without penalty or loss of certification for being closed. As such, recycling centers may redeem empty beverage containers at their discretion and in accordance with federal, state, and local physical distancing guidelines and safety requirements.
Guidelines for handling fees: Handling fees shall be awarded to recycling centers consistent with the requirements of Public Resources Code section 14585 except that the operational hours requirements of Public Resources Code subsections 14571 and 14585(c)(2) shall not apply until June 22, 2020.

The business hours requirements found in Public Resources Code sections 14571 and 14585(c)(2) are waived and the number of hours a recycling center is open does not otherwise affect its eligibility for handling fees. All other handling fee requirements found in the Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act and associated regulations continue to apply.

For questions regarding operating hours of recycling centers, please contact Carrie Holler @ (916) 324-8598 or carrie.holler@calrecycle.ca.gov.

For questions regarding handling fee eligibility, please contact Lisa Fernandez @ (916) 327-7600 or lisa.fernandez@calrecycle.ca.gov.