

# State Advocacy Letters

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Second District, Vice Chair

**DOREEN FARR**  
Third District

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**STEVE LAVAGNINO**  
Fifth District, Chair



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[www.countyofsb.org](http://www.countyofsb.org)

**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

May 5, 2014

Assemblymember Das Williams  
37<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0037

Sent by Fax: (916) 319-2137

**Re: AB 2284 (Williams) - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Williams:

The County of Santa Barbara strongly supports AB 2284, which will require producers of household batteries, as defined, to create, finance, and manage an extended producer responsibility (EPR) system for California consumers to safely and conveniently recycle used and expired non-rechargeable batteries.

In 2006, California banned household batteries from the trash due to their toxic and corrosive chemicals. As a result of this "ban without a plan," local governments must finance battery recycling programs using public taxpayer and utility ratepayer funds to safely manage batteries. AB 2284 alleviates what has become the equivalent of an unfunded state mandate. Last year, battery recycling costs exceeded \$17,000 for Santa Barbara County's household hazardous waste (HHW) collection program alone. When considering all of California's HHW programs collectively, battery recycling is a huge expense for public agencies. The 2014 County of Santa Barbara Legislative Platform approved by the Board of Supervisors clearly states its opposition to the creation of additional state mandates and the re-direction of existing revenues.

We strongly believe that AB 2284 is the right solution to this pressing problem because it creates a privately managed and financed system to allow consumers to properly and conveniently recycle their spent primary batteries, with the appropriate oversight and enforcement by CalRecycle.

If you have any questions about our position, please contact Leslie Robinson with our Public Works Department at (805) 882-3615 or [lrobins@cosbpw.net](mailto:lrobins@cosbpw.net).

Sincerely,

Steve Lavagnino  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian, 35<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Members of the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors  
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates  
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates  
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

May 6, 2014

Assembly Member Das Williams  
State Capitol  
PO BOX 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0037

***RE: AB 1594 (Williams) – Solid Waste: Recycling: Diversion: Green Material  
As Amended in Assembly April 21, 2014 – SUPPORT***

Dear Assembly Member Williams:

On behalf of the County of Santa Barbara, I write to express our strong support for AB 1594, by Assembly Member Das Williams. This bill would discourage local jurisdictions from using green material, a valuable resource, as alternative daily cover (ADC) in landfills, by not allowing this activity to be counted for diversion credit.

Over the past 15 years, the County of Santa Barbara has developed a comprehensive mulching program that allows local residents, businesses, farms, and parks to reuse our green material in a way that enriches our soil, prevents erosion, and reduces water consumption. Our successful local efforts to reuse green material, as well as our support of AB 1594, are in line with the County's Legislative Principle to support community sustainability. As is stated within this guiding principle, we support efforts to foster communitywide sustainability by promoting economic stability and stewardship through participation in the growing green economy.

Here in Santa Barbara County, we have been developing the Resource Recovery Project for the past 7 years (see [www.ResourceRecoveryProject.com](http://www.ResourceRecoveryProject.com)). When built, this project would process all municipal solid waste currently disposed of at our regional landfill; pulling out all recyclables to be sent to market and all organics to be turned into compost through anaerobic digestion. Even with our successful green waste program in place, we are dedicated to eliminating all organics from the landfill thereby significantly reducing our dependence for landfilling as well as significantly reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.

However, even with our aggressive efforts to eliminate all organics from our landfill we do believe that green waste can be used appropriately and effectively in some instances as ADC (for example: wet weather conditions). Although we support not counting green waste ADC as diversion, we have

*SUBJECT: AB 1594 (Williams) – Solid Waste: Recycling: Diversion: Green Material As Amended in  
Assembly April 21, 2014 – SUPPORT  
May 6, 2014*

Page 2

concerns regarding the State's proposal to charge a \$1.40 per ton disposal fee and would suggest this aspect of the Bill to be reconsidered.

From our local experience, we believe the State of California as a whole would greatly benefit from the reuse and recycling of green material.

In summary, we, the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors strongly support AB 1594. Should you have any questions, please contact our Deputy Director of Public Works, Mark Schleich at (805) 882-3605.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Steve Lavagnino  
Chair of the Board of Supervisors

cc: Mark Schleich, Deputy Director of Santa Barbara County Public Works Department  
Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
Assembly Member Katcho Achadjian, 35th Assembly District  
Members of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer  
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

May 5, 2014

The Honorable Mark Stone  
Capitol Office  
P.O. Box 94249-0029

Sent by Fax: (916) 319-2129

**SUBJECT:        *ASSEMBLY BILL 1893 – SAFE MANAGEMENT OF USED NEEDLES –  
SUPPORT***

Dear Assemblymember Stone:

The County of Santa Barbara strongly supports Assembly Bill (AB) 1893 (Stone/Eggman), which will facilitate the proper disposal of used “sharps” (e.g. needles, lancets, syringes), reduce needle-stick injuries, and reduce costs to tax- and rate-payers.

Used sharps can carry infectious and deadly diseases. When improperly disposed, they pose a tremendous health risk to solid waste workers and the general public. Individuals who are accidentally pricked must undergo a series of blood tests and medical exams to determine whether they have been infected by any of a number of blood-borne pathogens. This process is not only stressful for the victim but can also be very costly for employers and insurers.

To prevent improper disposal, local government agencies have carried the financial burden of managing home-generated sharps collection programs. These programs are broadly financed by taxpayers or utility ratepayers, even though many of these taxpayers or ratepayers never directly benefit from use of the sharps.

The County of Santa Barbara has operated a home-generated sharps collection program for over a decade. The County supplies collection containers to the public, free of charge, and collects and disposes of the containers when full. The program is very successful, annually collecting almost 8,000 pounds of used sharps. The program, however, is also costly. Distribution of the sharps collection containers alone costs the County approximately \$13,000 each year. Additionally, the County must cover disposal fees and staff costs to manage the program.

We are very supportive of AB 1893’s provision that would require a sharps collection container to be provided with the purchase of new sharps in the state of California. We also strongly support the provision that requires consumers to receive information about the proper and legal disposal of sharps, including information about local disposal locations.

*SUBJECT: Support – ASSEMBLY BILL 1893 – SAFE MANAGEMENT OF USED NEEDLES*

Page 2

If you have any questions about our position, please contact Leslie Robinson with our Public Works Department at (805) 882-3615 or [lrobins@cosbpw.net](mailto:lrobins@cosbpw.net).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Lavagnino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" being more prominent.

Steve Lavagnino  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, Fax: (916) 324-7544  
Heidi Sanborn, California Product Stewardship Council, email: [heidi@calpsc.org](mailto:heidi@calpsc.org)  
Assemblymember Susan Eggman, Fax: (916) 319-2113  
Assemblymember Das Williams, Fax: (805) 564-1651  
Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian, 35<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Members of the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors  
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer  
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates  
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

May 22, 2014

Governor Edmund G. Brown  
State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Fax: (916)558-3160**

***Subject: SUPPORT - Cap and Trade Funding for California Intercity Passenger Rail Program***

Dear Governor Brown,

The County of Santa Barbara strongly supports the California Intercity Passenger Rail Program. With the Pacific Surfliner serving five rail stations in the county, including the very popular Santa Barbara station, over 350,000 people use state-supported rail service in the county every year, greatly benefiting residents, visitors, businesses, and educational and other organizations in the county. Intercity rail service is an environmentally responsible transportation alternative that reduces greenhouse gases and offers an excellent return on the state's investment of cap and trade proceeds by connecting the urban areas in the state to one another.

The 2014 County of Santa Barbara Legislative Principles specifically support the generation of new intergovernmental revenue such as the proceeds from the carbon options, ensure that Santa Barbara County receives the economic and financial benefits from new policies that support community sustainability. Making an ongoing percentage (even 5%) of cap and trade proceeds to fund improvements to intercity rail service will be recognized right away by the hundreds of thousands of regular customers.

California leads the country in funding and operating intercity rail service, with three of the five busiest rail corridors in the nation operating in California—the Pacific Surfliner, the Capital Corridor, and the San Joaquin. With these three services carrying over five million passengers every year, 20% of all rail passengers in the nation board a train in California. The state's Intercity Passenger Rail Program not only lowers the demand on our major highways, but also increases safety and the productivity of the traveling public.

With the implementation of federal legislation in 2013 that eliminated federal funding for intercity rail services less than 750 miles in length, continued state financial support for the three rail services is of paramount importance. Even at current service levels, customers must

SUPPORT - Cap and Trade Funding for California Intercity Passenger Rail Program  
May 22, 2014

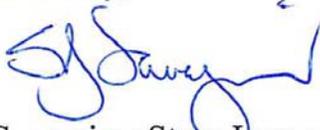
Page 2

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stand on many trains, so expansion of all three services as identified in the 2013 State Rail Plan is critical.

The County of Santa Barbara encourages you to build upon the state's investment in rail infrastructure and work to expand and enhance all three state supported rail corridors.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Steve Lavagnino  
Chair of the Board of Supervisors

cc: Assemblymember Das Williams - (916)319-2137  
Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian - (916) 319-2135  
Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson - (916)324-7544  
Members of the Board of Supervisors  
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer  
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates  
Assemblymember Toni Atkins - (916) 319-2178  
Senator Darrel Steinberg - (916) 651-4906  
Senator Bob Huff - (916) 651-4929  
Assemblymember Connie Conway - (559) 636-4484  
Assemblymember Nancy Skinner - (916) 319-2115  
Assemblymember Jeff Gorell - 916-319-2144  
Senator Mark Leno - (916) 651-4911  
Senator Jim Neilson - (916)651-4904

**SALUD CARBAJAL**  
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Second District, Vice Chair

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

May 22, 2014

Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson  
State Capitol Building – Room 5080  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax: (916)324-7544

***Subject: SUPPORT – Repayment of State Mandate Backlog***

Dear Senator Jackson,

We learned yesterday from the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) that neither the Senate nor the Assembly budget subcommittees will agendaize the Governor's May Revision proposal to begin paying off the pre-2004 Wall of Debt mandates owed to counties, cities, and special districts. As you are aware, if May Revision proposals are not heard by the subcommittees, they are not included in the budgets that are considered in conference committee. I understand that the initiation of state mandate repayment was discussed during your meeting last week with our County Executive Officer Mona Miyasato and staff.

The 2014 County of Santa Barbara Legislative Platform opposes unfunded state mandates and strongly supports reimbursement to local government for state mandated services as quickly as possible. Starting this year, with reimbursement for services delivered by county government over ten years ago, seems very reasonable. We'd like to ask for your support in bringing the May Revision proposal for state mandate repayment to the attention of the budget subcommittee.

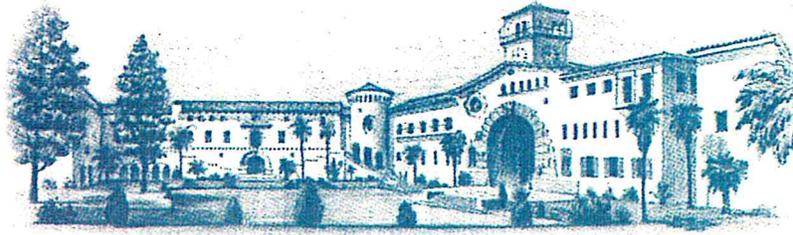
If you have any questions about the County of Santa Barbara position, please contact Legislative Coordinator Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3400.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Steve Lavagnino  
Chair of the Board of Supervisors

cc: Assemblymember Das Williams  
Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian  
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates  
Members of the Board of Supervisors  
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

May 15, 2014

The Honorable Bill Monning  
Member, California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 4066  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Budget Proposal for HUTA Loan Repayment**

Dear Senator Monning:

On behalf of the County of Santa Barbara, I am writing in support of the early repayment of Highway User Tax Account loans to the General Fund and to suggest an alternative allocation of the early loan repayment proceeds. Our proposal would follow the formula that guides the distribution of the incremental gas excise tax revenues that were the source of the loan, with 44% allocated to cities and counties and 56% percent allocated to the state.

The most recent California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment Report (2012), which evaluates the present condition and future requirements of California's pavement, bridges, sidewalks and other essential transportation components of the local streets and roads network, found the pavement condition on the local transportation network is deteriorating at an accelerating rate. Without a reinvestment in the system, 25% of local roads will be in a "failed" condition by 2022. California's cities and counties are facing an \$82 billion funding shortfall over the next 10 years just for maintenance of the existing system. In Santa Barbara County alone, the current backlog of maintenance projects is \$257M.

Since nearly every trip, whether by personal vehicle, mass transit, or active transportation begins and ends on a local road, this figure is startling. Santa Barbara County recognizes there are similar needs for other components of the system, including the state highway system and transit. Californians demand and deserve a safe, seamless, efficient and multi-modal transportation network; as such, the needs of the local system are critical to the mobility of the state.

Governor Brown's proposed budget includes the early repayment of \$337 million in HUTA revenues loaned in 2010 (\$328 million loan plus \$9 million in interest). His proposal would provide \$210 million to the SHOPP for repairs to the state highway system and improvements to traffic management systems, \$100 million for cities and counties for maintenance of the local street and road system, and \$27 million for interregional road maintenance. Santa Barbara County instead proposes that the loans be repaid in accordance with the formulas that follow the source of the funds. Specifically, a 44%-56% local and state funding split, which would provide \$148.3 million for cities and counties and \$192.7 million for state

highways, with the funding for cities and counties apportioned based on population and a population and maintained mileage, respectively.

We agree loan funds should be invested in a cost-effective approach. California's cities and counties are implementing a fix-it-first policy in communities statewide, which is a cost-effective approach to pavement maintenance. Santa Barbara County uses Street Saver® pavement management system to maximize our investments in road maintenance and reduce future cost. Moreover, additional loan repayment funds in 2014-15 would be put to work immediately in Santa Barbara County paving roads and rehabilitating bridges.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our perspectives and alternative budget proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need additional information from us, or would like to discuss our request in greater detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Lavaghino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "L".

Steve Lavaghino  
Chair of the Board of Supervisors  
Santa Barbara County

Cc: The Honorable Jim Beall, Chairman, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 2  
The Honorable Richard Bloom, Chairman, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3

**STEVE LAVAGNINO**  
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## COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 15, 2014

The Honorable Das Williams  
Member, California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4005  
Sacramento, CA 94249

**Re: Budget Proposal for HUTA Loan Repayment**

Dear Assemblymember Williams:

On behalf of the County of Santa Barbara, I am writing in support of the early repayment of Highway User Tax Account loans to the General Fund and to suggest an alternative allocation of the early loan repayment proceeds. Our proposal would follow the formula that guides the distribution of the incremental gas excise tax revenues that were the source of the loan, with 44% allocated to cities and counties and 56% percent allocated to the state.

The most recent California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment Report (2012), which evaluates the present condition and future requirements of California's pavement, bridges, sidewalks and other essential transportation components of the local streets and roads network, found the pavement condition on the local transportation network is deteriorating at an accelerating rate. Without a reinvestment in the system, 25% of local roads will be in a "failed" condition by 2022. California's cities and counties are facing an \$82 billion funding shortfall over the next 10 years just for maintenance of the existing system. In Santa Barbara County alone, the current backlog of maintenance projects is \$257M.

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We agree loan funds should be invested in a cost-effective approach. California's cities and counties are implementing a fix-it-first policy in communities statewide, which is a cost-effective approach to pavement maintenance. Santa Barbara County uses Street Saver® pavement management system to maximize our investments in road maintenance and reduce future cost. Moreover, additional loan repayment funds in 2014-15 would be put to work immediately in Santa Barbara County paving roads and rehabilitating bridges.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our perspectives and alternative budget proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need additional information from us, or would like to discuss our request in greater detail.

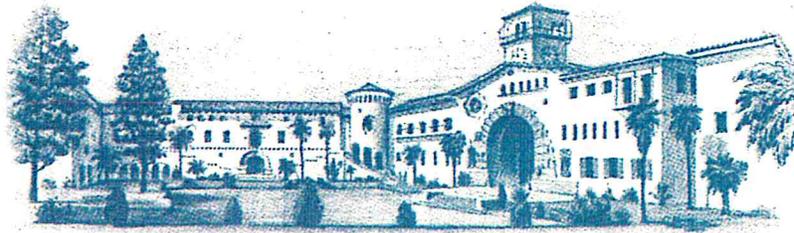
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Steve Lavagnino  
Chair of the Board of Supervisors  
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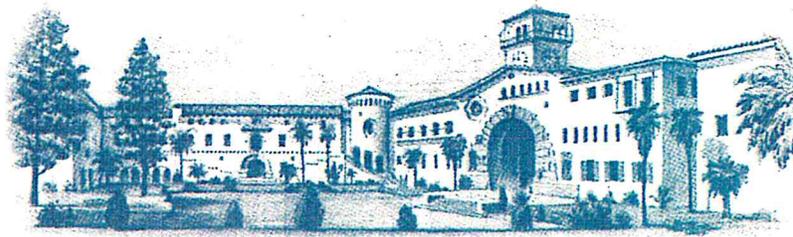
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May 15, 2014

The Honorable Katcho Achadjian  
Member, California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4098  
Sacramento, CA 94249

**Re: Budget Proposal for HUTA Loan Repayment**

Dear Assemblymember Achadjian:

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**SALUD CARBAJAL**  
First District

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Fifth District, Chair



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
County Administration Building  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
Telephone: (805) 568-2190  
[www.countyofsb.org](http://www.countyofsb.org)

**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

May 5, 2014

Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson  
State Capitol, Room 2032  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sent by Fax: (916) 324-7544

***SUBJECT: SB 909 (PAVLEY) – HEALTH SCREENINGS FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN – SUPPORT***

Dear Senator Jackson:

The County of Santa Barbara strongly supports SB 909 (Pavley), which will require that each child in out-of-home placement receives a medical and dental examination within the first 30 days of the initial detention. However, current law does not provide clear authority during the 72 hours prior to the detention hearing for social workers to provide consent for the health care provider to conduct initial medical, dental and mental health assessments and screenings for all newly detained children. The 2014 County of Santa Barbara Legislative Platform supports efforts to maintain and enhance safety net services, particularly medical care, for the most vulnerable in our community like children in out-of-home placements.

SB 909 would clarify the authority of a social worker to provide consent for important initial health assessments (medical, dental, mental health) and screenings which are necessary prior to the required initial petition hearing and to meet the needs of the child. In the absence of specific statutory authority for conducting initial health care assessments and screenings for newly detained children, many counties have relied on a variety of local rules and blanket orders from the Juvenile Court to provide the authority to conduct such assessments. Each local rule and blanket order uses its own standard as to what a screening encompasses. This discrepancy has resulted in a great deal of inconsistency statewide and in the need for statutory changes to specifically authorize the initial medical, dental, and mental health assessments and screenings.

If you have any questions, please contact Dennis Bozanich with our County Executive Office at (805) 568-3107 or [dbozanich@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:dbozanich@co.santa-barbara.ca.us).

Sincerely,



Steve Lavagnino  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian, 35<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Members of the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors  
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates  
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates  
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer