



February 11, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Urging Adoption of SB 54 Regulations by March 8, 2025**

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations – and the more than two-thirds of Californians who consistently name plastic packaging waste and pollution as a major problem – we write to urge you not to intervene in CalRecycle's rulemaking process to implement the Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packing Responsibility Act of 2022 (SB 54, Allen). We want to see the regulations submitted to the Office of Administrative Law by the March 8, 2025 deadline, and echo the importance of staying on course as conveyed to you on February 6 by fourteen members of the California state legislature.

On June 30, 2022 you signed SB 54, which will cut plastic packaging and foodware by 25 percent over ten years, require all packaging in the state to be recyclable or compostable by 2032, and mandate 65 percent of all single-use plastic packaging and foodware to be recycled in the same timeframe. Additionally, SB 54 shifts the burden from consumers and local governments to industry to pay for the full lifecycle of their materials and additionally requires plastic producers to pay \$5 billion over ten years to help address plastic pollution and support disadvantaged communities hurt most by the damaging effects of plastic.

We wholeheartedly agree with [your statement](#) when you signed SB 54: "Our kids deserve a future free of plastic waste and all its dangerous impacts, everything from clogging our oceans to killing animals – contaminating the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat. No more. California won't tolerate plastic waste that's

filling our waterways and making it harder to breathe. We're holding polluters responsible and cutting plastics at the source."

Following nearly a year of informal workshops and then nine months of formal rulemaking, CalRecycle has completed the public comment periods for the draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report and regulations to implement SB 54. CalRecycle received nearly 450 letters which included almost 5,000 separate comments and then revised the proposed regulations multiple times, releasing three drafts, extending comment periods when requested by the public. The SB 54 Advisory Board met fifteen times in day-long sessions that included robust engagement by hundreds of interested parties and members of the public.

Do not believe industry characterizations that California consumers will bear additional costs associated with implementing SB 54 – nothing could be further from the truth. Several peer-reviewed studies have revealed no discernible impact on consumer prices associated with programs like SB 54. Indeed, this landmark legislation is an affirmative effort by the state to address the rising costs of curbside collection, shouldered by consumers and small businesses, associated with packaging waste. California communities are estimated to spend more than \$428 million annually to clean up and control plastic pollution, in addition to the countless costs associated with the human health impacts of plastic pollution, which [are borne disproportionately by plastic-burdened communities](#).

The final draft regulations are a step in the right direction to achieve the ambitious goals of SB 54. We strongly support adoption and thank CalRecycle staff, the SB 54 Advisory Board, and other stakeholders for investing so much of their time, dedication, and expertise throughout the rulemaking process.

We urge you to stick with your prior conviction and allow CalRecycle to take the next important step to implement what you called the "most significant overhaul of California's plastics and packaging recycling policy in history... (which) goes further than any other state on cutting plastics production at the source and continues to build a circular economy that is necessary to combat climate change."

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Alejandra Warren  
Co-Founder and Executive Director  
Plastic Free Future

Alison Waliszewski  
Director of Regional Policy & Program  
Development  
5 Gyres Institute

Amy Wolfrum  
Director, California Policy and  
Government Affairs  
Monterey Bay Aquarium

Andria Ventura  
Legislative and Policy Director  
Clean Water Action

Barbara Sattler  
Executive Leadership Council  
California Nurses for Environmental  
Health and Justice

Cheryl Auger  
President  
Ban SUP (Single Use Plastic)

David Diaz  
Executive Director  
Active San Gabriel Valley

Dianna Cohen  
CEO & Co-Founder  
Plastic Pollution Coalition

Dora Rose  
Deputy Director  
League of Women Voters of California

Dr. Douglas McCauley  
Director, Professor of Marine Ecology  
Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory

Dr. Anja Brandon  
Director, Plastics Policy  
Ocean Conservancy

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CALPIRG

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[CleanEarth4Kids.org](http://CleanEarth4Kids.org)

Robert Gould, MD  
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Tara Brock  
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Ruth Abbe  
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Zero Waste USA

Teresa Bui  
Climate Policy Director  
Pacific Environment

cc: Nani Coloretti, Cabinet Secretary  
Christine Aurre, Legislative Secretary  
Matthew Lee, Deputy Legal Secretary  
Catherine Baxter, Deputy Cabinet Secretary  
Brady Borcharding, Deputy Legislative Secretary  
Yana Garcia, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency  
Zoe Heller, CalRecycle  
Senator Catherine Blakespear, Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Senator Ben Allen, Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #2  
Senate Majority Leader Lena Gonzalez  
Senator Jesse Arreguín, Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee  
Senator Josh Becker, Chair, Senate Energy Committee  
Senator John Laird, Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #1  
Senator Monique Limón, Chair, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
Senator Sasha Renée Pérez, Chair, Senate Education Committee  
Senator Henry Stern, Chair, Joint Legislative Climate Change Committee  
Senator Scott Wiener, Chair, Senate Budget Committee  
Assemblymember Dawn Addis, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1  
Assemblymember Tasha Boerner, Chair, Assembly Communications &  
Conveyance Committee  
Assemblymember Isaac Bryan, Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
Assemblymember Damon Connolly, Chair, Assembly Environmental Safety and  
Toxic Materials Committee