



# CITY OF MANTECA

TIM OGDEN, CITY MANAGER

May 21, 2019

The Honorable Ben Allen  
California State Senate  
State Capitol Building, Room 4076  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 54 (Allen) California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act.**  
**Notice of SUPPORT** (As Amended 5/7/19)

Dear Senator Allen:

The City of Manteca is pleased to **Support** your SB 54 (Allen), the California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act. This bill directs the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to adopt regulations requiring manufacturers to source reduce and recycle 75% of single-use packaging and products sold or distributed in California by 2030. The bill also requires all single-use plastic packaging distributed and used in California to be recyclable or compostable by 2030.

This bill would both reduce the plastic pollution that many single-use plastics cause in our waterways and oceans and remove materials that are often landfilled from entering the waste stream. If local governments are to meet the current statewide solid waste and recycling goals, more materials will need to be recycled or diverted from landfills. Additionally, this bill requires single-use plastics to be recyclable or compostable by 2030. By making single-use plastics recyclable or compostable, SB 54 would help local governments recycle more materials, throw less waste into landfills, and advance towards meeting statewide solid waste and recycling goals. The City of Manteca is supportive of meeting these goals and applauds efforts that help local governments achieve them.

Another important component of SB 54 is that it seeks to address the lack of recycling markets in California. California's solid waste and recycling systems are facing serious challenges. For decades, California sold the majority of its recyclable materials to China. However, over the last several years, China banned the importation of certain recyclables through the adoption of its "National Sword" policy, and in 2018 announced its intent to ban all imports of recyclable materials by 2020. International markets, such as China, have been a critical component to California's recycling infrastructure. The combination of international policies has nearly collapsed the recyclable materials market in California. The recyclable materials once shipped overseas are piling up with nowhere to go.

The City of Manteca stands to benefit from this bill in several ways. It will help with the City's recycling efforts, by allowing residents and consumers to reuse the packaging materials or have them recycled through composting. Additionally, the less new recyclable materials are generated, the less amount of time and money the City has to expand in staff and equipment cost, hauling cost and tipping fee to recycle and dispose of the materials properly. Currently, the City averages nine (9) routes per day, every other week to service blue recycling cans that for the most part contain plastic materials.



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It costs the City an average of **\$26,000.00 a month** in operational staff cost (drivers only) plus tipping fees, to service 9 residential routes twice a month. By encouraging residence to reuse packaging or composting them, this cost can be sliced into more manageable pieces

Cities, like ours, have dedicated significant time and resources to develop and implement their recycling programs, and want to ensure city recycling programs continue to be successful. This bill is a step in the right direction to reduce the amount of single-use plastics, increase the availability of recyclable materials, and help develop in-state recycling markets.

For these reasons, the City of Manteca **supports** SB 54.

Sincerely,

Tim Ogden  
City Manager  
City of Manteca

cc: Cathleen Galgiani, State Senate, 5<sup>th</sup> District  
Heath Flora, State Assembly, 12<sup>th</sup> District  
Stephen Qualls, Central Valley Public Affairs Manager, [squalls@cities.org](mailto:squalls@cities.org)  
Meg Desmond, League of California Cities, [cityletters@cacities.org](mailto:cityletters@cacities.org)