



LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

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Agenda Report

File #: 2021-1515

Agenda Date: 3/8/2021

Agenda Item No: 4.

FROM: James D. Herberg, General Manager

SUBJECT:

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE SOLID WASTE: PREMOISTENED NONWOVEN DISPOSABLE WIPES BILL AB 1818

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Letter of Support for the solid waste: premoistened nonwoven disposable wipes Bill AB 818.

BACKGROUND

In the 2019 - 2020 legislative session, Assembly Member Bloom introduced Assembly Bill AB (AB) 1672, which would require specific labeling of nonwoven disposable wipes manufactured on or after January 1, 2022. The Orange County Sanitation District (Sanitation District) supported AB 1672 by Assembly Member Bloom. Additionally, this Bill was widely accepted by fellow agencies and associations including the bill sponsor, the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA). Unfortunately, the Bill did not pass. Earlier this year, Assembly Member Bloom introduced AB 818, which is a reintroduction of AB 1672. The Bill is co-sponsored by CASA, the National Stewardship Action Council, and the Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry; and requires "Do Not Flush" symbols and phrases on all diaper wipes, personal care wipes, and household cleaning wipes that are made with plastic fibers.

RELEVANT STANDARDS

- Maintain influential legislative advocacy and a public outreach program
- Build brand, trust, and support with policy makers and community leaders
- Maintain collaborative and cooperative relationships with regulators, stakeholders, and neighboring communities

PROBLEM

Without proper support of this Bill, it could fail, allowing non-flushable wipes to be inappropriately disposed of which could cause sanitary sewer overflows.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

Staff has drafted a letter of support for AB 818.

TIMING CONCERNS

It is important that the Sanitation District take a position on the letter as soon as possible to ensure that the Sanitation District's position is taken into consideration.

RAMIFICATIONS OF NOT TAKING ACTION

If we do not support this bill it could fail.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

N/A

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

N/A

ATTACHMENT

The following attachment(s) may be viewed on-line at the OC San website (www.ocsan.com) with the complete agenda package:

- Letter of Support for AB 818
- AB 818 Bill Text