

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of February 19, 2019

RESOLUTION NO. 19-15

**RESOLUTION OF THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SUPPORTING  
THE CREATION OF A STATEWIDE COMMISSION ON RECYCLING MARKETS**

**WHEREAS**, Counties are leaders and critical partners in the State of California's sustainability efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, California recycling policy relies on robust international markets to purchase and process the millions of tons of recyclable waste it produces each year; and

**WHEREAS**, exporting recyclable materials to foreign markets is a key component of California's recycling infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, China recently enacted strict mixed paper and plastic contamination limits and import bans which are collectively referred to as the National Sword policy; and

**WHEREAS**, China has declared an intent to ban all recyclable material imports by 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the changes in China's waste management policies has led to the decline of other international markets for recyclables, and subsequent stockpiles of unsold materials at California solid waste and recycling facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, stockpiled paper and plastic materials in California's solid waste and recycling facilities is causing slowdowns in processing of other waste materials and is creating significant public health risks; and

**WHEREAS**, local governments across California will soon have to comply with additional state laws and regulations regarding organic waste diversion and processing which require a 50 percent reduction in the level of the statewide disposal of organic waste from the 2014 level by 2020 and a 75 percent reduction by 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the infrastructure required to implement the above-referenced laws and regulations regarding organic waste diversion and processing is expected to cost billions of dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, increased diversion requirements, recent changes to international waste management policies and a declining global market value for recyclables has resulted in an issue of statewide concern for the resource recovery industry, local governments and the citizens of the State of California.

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**NOW, THEREFORE, THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The County of Humboldt hereby supports the creation of a statewide commission to address the significant challenges to California's recycling markets.
2. The County of Humboldt hereby supports the inclusion of state, local and industry representatives on the statewide commission who would be responsible for making recommendations regarding solutions to the declining markets for recyclable materials, while continuing to emphasize the need to divert materials from California's landfills.
3. The County of Humboldt hereby supports the examination of potential solutions, including, without limitation, the development of international and domestic markets, updated compliance standards in this new economic environment, ways to increase source reduction and any other means, that will alleviate the growing public health and environmental crisis, while still allowing California to meet its goals for a sustainable future.

Dated: February 19, 2019

  
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Rex Bohn, Chair  
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

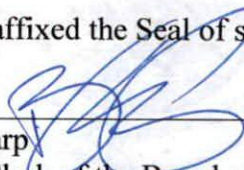
Adopted on motion by Supervisor Bass, seconded by Supervisor Wilson, and the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Bohn, Fennell, Wilson, Madrone, Bass  
NAYS: Supervisors --  
ABSENT: Supervisors --  
ABSTAIN: Supervisors --

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
County of Humboldt )

I, KATHY HAYES, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County of Humboldt, State of California, do hereby certify the foregoing to be an original made in the above-entitled matter by said Board of Supervisors at a meeting held in Eureka, California.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of said Board of Supervisors.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan Sharp  
Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the  
County of Humboldt, State of California