



## AB 1419- CRT Glass Recycling

### SUMMARY

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AB 1419 (Eggman) is an important and urgently needed step toward addressing a significant flaw in California's electronic waste recycling system by supporting the recycling of panel glass from monitors and televisions.

### BACKGROUND

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New LCD and LED technology for televisions and monitor screens has taken over and demand for old-fashioned Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) devices has dropped dramatically. The end-use market for CRT glass generated from recycling scrap CRT's has dried up and recyclers across the nation are struggling with what to do with the glass. Many have even resorted to stockpiling this material in hopes of finding new outlets in the future.

In response to this impending crisis, DTSC adopted Emergency Regulations that allowed this material to be recycled or disposed of under certain conditions in 2012. However, this regulatory scheme has proven difficult for recyclers to implement, and hasn't created sufficient viable pathways for this material.

The process of recycling scrap CRT monitors and televisions produces three different types of glass: funnel glass, which contains high levels of lead, and low and non-leaded panel glass which contains very low concentrations of lead, or no lead at all. The current CA regulations limit the options for recycling leaded funnel glass to smelting, glass to glass recycling for the production of new CRTs, or landfill disposal.

Complicating the issue even further is that the world's last CRT manufacturer (located in India), which recycled as much as 57% of the funnel and panel glass generated in California, announced that it would discontinue CRT production in the coming months, eliminating one of the last outlets for this material.

Although non-leaded panel glass should be available for many other uses, the regulatory pathway for using these end markets has not been clearly developed. Because there is no list of alternative approved recycling options or destinations, recyclers must make their own determination and are thus at risk of being deemed out of compliance and found in violation of the DTSC's regulations. This would not only result in large fines, but would also create irreparable damage to a recycler's reputation. The uncertainty leaves recyclers afraid to do anything other than landfill or stockpile this material, even though it was collected for recycling.

This not only undermines the intent of the state's e-waste recycling law, but is also a betrayal of the public trust for consumers who've taken the time to drop off their electronics for recycling.

Since 2013, the lack of recycling markets along with the drop in global commodity market prices, has resulted in 22 e-waste recyclers shutting their door or dropped out of the program, and 135 collectors are no longer operating in the CA E-waste Recycling Program.

### THIS BILL

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This bill seeks to reduce the environmental risk inherent in the stockpiling and export of used monitors a glass, by creating a recycling framework for CRT panel glass.

This glass has been processed and rendered harmless for the vast majority of end-uses,

such as tile and radiation shielding glass. The bill would also authorize DTSC, in consultation with CalRecycle, to identify additional end-uses of the material, and to prohibit any previously allowed end uses if needed

AB 1419 leaves in place existing prohibitions for leaded glass.

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## **SUPPORT**

- All eWaste, Inc.
- Association of California Recycling Industries
- Cali Resources, Inc.
- Californians Against Waste
- California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC)
- California Electronic Asset Recovery (CEAR)
- California League of Conservation Voters (CLCV)
- Cal Micro Recycling
- Ecology Action
- ECS Refining
- Electronic Recyclers International
- E-Recycling of California
- Environmental Working Group
- Fireclay Tile
- Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI), West Coast Chapter
- Kleen Blast Abrasives
- Marin County Hazardous & Solid Waste Management Joint Powers Authority
- Napa Recycling & Waste Services
- Northern California Recycling Association (NCRA)
- Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)
- Sonoma County AB 939 Local Task Force

- Sonoma County Waste Management Agency
- Stopwaste
- Technologies Displays Americas, LLC
- Tycoon Materials, Inc. DBA Happy Recyclers

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## **OPPOSITION**

None on File

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## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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