

# Presentation for September 2, 2004 Interested Parties Meeting (CIWMB)

## Plastic Trash Bag Program

- Report to the Legislature
  - Originally due October 2001
  - Delayed pending results of Plastics White Paper
  - Report updated to reflect:
    - Plastic White Paper recommendations
    - Program implementation results for 2003
    - Stakeholder feedback

## Review and Approval Process

- Initial 30 day review ends: September 10
- Release revised report: September 27
- Final report to Sustainability and Market Development Committee: November 3
- Final report to Board: November 9-10

## Purpose of Today's Meeting

- Take comments on the draft Report
    - Refrain from responding to other's comments
      - Ensure everyone has a chance to comment before debating merits of any suggestions
    - Please follow up with written comments
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## Legislative Requirements:

- Statute requires the Board to address the following topics:
- Names and locations of PCM suppliers
- Quantity of PCM supplied

- Recommendations re:PCM minimum content requirements
- Identify the gauge of all regulated bags
- Determine if there are separate production lines for national vs. California markets

## Key Recommendations

- Focused on addressing issues identified by the Plastics White Paper and stakeholders:
  - Difficult to comply with existing minimum content requirements
    - 10 percent in regulated trash bags
    - 30 percent for all plastic products (exclusive of regulated rigid plastic packaging containers)
  - Quantity and quality of available PCM is inadequate
    - Plastic lumber and export markets taking available PCM
  - The law is ineffective
    - Need a more comprehensive solution to plastic film recycling

## Difficult to Comply with Existing Minimum Content Requirements:

- Tiered Certification Structure – provide greater flexibility re:compliance options:
  - 10% in all plastic film products
  - 25% in all plastic products
    - Allow PCM used in RPPCs to count
  - 10% source reduction in plastic products
  - Exempt biodegradable film products, meeting ASTM 6400, from minimum content requirements

## Quantity and Quality of Available PCM Is Inadequate

- Current programs/projects:
  - QA/QC Guidelines
  - Materials Database & PCM Suppliers list
  - CalMax
- Support new and expanded film collection & processing infrastructure
  - Mil fee on sales of film plastic products

- Provide loans and/or grants for recycling infrastructure improvements and RCP market development
- Establish a PCM purchasing co-operative

## The Law is Ineffective

- PTBs may not be best option for recycled content:
  - Single use
  - Technical challenges (gauge of film)
  - Largest PTB manufacturers routinely asking for exemptions
- Recognize need for a more effective means of diverting film plastic
  - PTBs small fraction of plastic film
  - Focus on Ag and commercial film
- Keep the current law until a new law replaces it
  - Processors cite need for law to help provide markets

## Recommendations Could Serve as a Basis for Developing “a More Comprehensive Solution”

- Include manufacturers of a broader array of film products in a certification process
- Program elements to include:
  - Product Stewardship and financial responsibility
  - Waste prevention and source reduction
  - Minimum recycled content requirements
  - Exemptions for biodegradable products

## Develop Legislative Proposal Through a Collaborative Process

- Board led process to develop proposed legislation for 2005 Session
- Goal would be to significantly increase the diversion of film plastic from disposal
  - 1999 Waste Characterization Study found that 1.5 million tons of plastic film was disposed of in California’s landfills
  - New disposal data should be available by October

## Conclusion:

- Board must submit a report on status of, and make recommendations in regard to, the PTB program.
- Recommendations could also serve as a basis for discussing development of a more comprehensive solution to diverting film plastic from California's landfills, and repeal of the existing PTB law.