



March 9, 2018

Dept. of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)
Hazardous Waste Management Program
PO Box 806
Sacramento, Ca 95812-0806

Re: DTSC Rulemaking on Photovoltaic Modules (PV) Universal Waste Regulations

Dear Director Lee:

On October 1, 2015, [SB 489](#) (Monning, Chapter 419) was enacted to add section 25259 to Health and Safety Code, Division 20, Chapter 6.5, Article 17, which authorizes the Department to adopt regulations to designate end-of-life photovoltaic modules that are identified as hazardous waste as a universal waste and subject those modules to universal waste management. DTSC has since held only two workshops, on July 19 2016 and August 22, 2017 to take public comment on the draft regulations dated Aug. 21, 2017 and input was received.

We have heard from DTSC staff that “The goal is to publish the notice of proposed rulemaking in mid- to late-2018.”

We, the undersigned, are concerned about the lack of PV recycling capacity in California. Those operating hazardous and solid waste facilities are getting more and more PVs brought to our facilities and we experience high costs of processing, if we have any place to send them at all. As a result of these conditions, we are seeing more storage of PVs because there is nothing else

to do with them. Many of our agencies are getting inquiries from the public almost daily on what to do with solar panels and we have nothing to say in response. Some are damaged in fires, some are old, but all need proper management.

We urge you to make the finalization of the PV regulations a higher priority and get them done. We need a solution and having such a high cost to manage without any funding or processing capacity is driving people to be frustrated at the least, and illegally dump them at the worst.

Please see the attached stories that exemplify the quickly growing problem of solar panel waste and why DTSC must move quickly to adopt the regulations. We can have more recycling available through the existing E-Waste infrastructure in California. By doing so, we will ultimately drive down the cost of processing, costs of which are currently mostly borne by local governments.

Signed by:

Doug Kobold, Chair, California Product Stewardship Council
Steve Rodowick, Recycling Coordinator, Butte County
Drew Lowell-Britt, Sustainability Analyst, City of Santa Monica
Patrick Carter, Director, Sonoma County Waste Management Agency
Kathy Wall, Marin Household Hazardous Waste Program Coordinator
Nate Miley, Supervisor, Alameda County, District 4
Patrick Mathews, General Manager/CAO, Salinas Valley Recycles
Bill Zimmerman, P.E., Deputy Executive Director, Western Placer Waste Mgmt. Authority
Patrick Carter, Executive Director, Sonoma County Waste Management Agency
Jenna Abbott, Executive Director, California Resource Recovery Association
Gretchen Olsen, City of Stockton, Solid Waste Manager
Manuel Medrano, Sr. Sustainability Specialist, City of Chula Vista
Kathy Wall, Marin Household Hazardous Waste Facility
Bob Douthitt, Manger, Imperial Valley Resource Management Agency
Steve Lederer, Manager, Upper Valley Waste Management Agency
Nick Lapis, Californians Against Waste
Andria Ventura, Toxics Program Manager, Clean Water Action
Amy Hammes, Citizen of the City of Burbank
Miriam Gordon, Policy Director, UPSTREAM

Cc: Scott Smithline, CalRecycle
Senator Bill Monning
Assemblymember McCarthy