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Submitted electronically via permit_hwm@dtsc.ca.gov

Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)
P.O. Box 806
Sacramento, CA 95812-0806

Re: SB 673 – Community Protection

The National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA) submits these comments in response to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) proposed regulation changes to the violation scoring procedure (VSP) and the SB 673 Cumulative Impacts and Community Vulnerability Draft Regulatory Framework document.

NWRA is a national trade association representing private-sector U.S. waste and recycling companies, as well as the manufacturers and service providers that do business with those companies. NWRA members operate waste facilities throughout California, many of which could be impacted by DTSC's implementation of SB 673.

NWRA members support measures that tackle the historic burdens on environmental justice communities and are committed to providing environmentally safe and effective services while supporting the communities they serve. Our members recognize the imperative of early and continuous engagement with potentially impacted communities and the importance of addressing their views in environmental decision-making processes. The industry has found effective outreach and communication with potentially impacted communities leads to improved coordination in pursuing programs to benefit the communities in which these facilities operate.

In addition, our members support the twin aims of SB 673 of integrating environmental justice concerns into permitting decisions while ensuring that state agencies can make timely decisions on permit applications. However, we are concerned that DTSC's implementation of SB 673—especially with respect to the 24-month pre-application timeline—could result in significant delays in processing permitting applications. This would be particularly exacerbated if the agency introduces further complexity into the

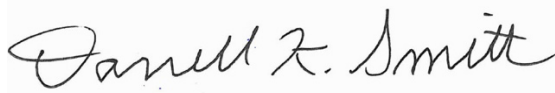
permit approval process without harmonizing with existing requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act, the Tanner Act, and other relevant authorities.

We recognize that “early identification and integration of public concerns” already is part of many existing permitting programs. As such, NWRA encourages DTSC to consult with our members on how to align various permitting authorities in order to streamline environmental reviews while simultaneously encouraging more robust participation among environmental justice communities.

Conclusion

NWRA appreciates your consideration of these comments. Should you have any questions, please call Anne Germain at 202-364-3724 or e-mail at agermain@wasterecycling.org.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell K. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and 'S'.

Darrell K. Smith, PhD
President & CEO