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## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Governor Gavin Newsom Vetoes Senate Bill 68**

*Effective January 1, 2021, Kern County landfills and transfer stations will no longer accept Treated Wood Waste (TWW)*

**Kern County, CA** – In late September, the Governor of the State of California, Gavin Newsom, vetoed [Senate Bill \(SB\) 68](#). This bill focused on extending the Alternate Management Standards (AMS) of Treated Wood Waste (TWW) that was set to expire this year on December 31, 2020. This extension would have allowed TWW to be continuously accepted at Class II and III landfills. Unfortunately, SB-68 was not signed into California State's legislation.

The Governor's veto message was this, "I am returning Senate Bill 68 without my signature. This bill would eliminate the sunset date on the Treated Wood Waste program at the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) and would make various changes to that program." Gov. Newsom also added, "SB 68 creates a significant additional mandate for DTSC to perform regular inspections of generators and disposal sites for treated wood waste. The Hazardous Waste Control Account (HWCA) currently has a structural deficit and this unfunded new mandate will cost the department millions of dollars to implement, exacerbating this deficit."

According to [California Health and Safety Code Section 25150.7](#), solid waste landfills (Class II and Class III) are authorized to accept TWW provided the landfill has specific authorization in their Waste Discharge Requirements. Some of the county landfills meet these requirements and have routinely been a viable disposal option for generators of TWW. Generators of TWW consist of commercial entities such as vineyards, railroads, construction businesses, and utility companies, along with county residents that generate TWW through fence, decking, and landscape projects.

"The Kern County Department of Public Works has provided disposal services under AMS for local TWW generators since 2008. This program enabled the Department to provide countywide services for commercial and residential customers," said Tony Bonanno, Public Works Manager. Mr. Bonanno also mentions, "Department sites will no longer be able to accept hazardous TWW, thus local commercial generators will need to arrange for Class I disposal or find alternatives through analytical testing. This will significantly add costs and potentially increase regulatory oversight."

As of now, some of the Kern County Public Works landfills will continue to accept TWW. However, effective January 1, 2021, county facilities will no longer accept this hazardous waste. Public Works is here to support local businesses and their residents. We encourage any businesses or residents subject to these changes to reach out to the Department for support and guidance.

### **About Kern County Public Works**

The [Kern County Public Works](#) Department is responsible for the planning, design, construction, maintenance, and operation of roads, bridges, traffic signals, sanitary landfills, recycling centers, wastewater treatment plants, public transit center, and other publicly-owned facilities.

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The Department strives to provide quality public services including road permit inspection, building permit inspection, building plan check, code compliance, engineering and surveying review of proposed land development, solid waste disposal, hazardous waste disposal, wastewater treatment, public transportation, and community outreach.

For more information, visit [www.kernpublicworks.com](http://www.kernpublicworks.com) and follow [@KernCountyPublicWorks](https://twitter.com/KernCountyPublicWorks). For media wishing to make special coverage arrangements, please contact Zechariah Garcia at 661-862-8928.

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