
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Senator Blakespear, Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: AB 1617
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Version: 1/21/2026
Urgency: No
Consultant: Taylor McKie

Hearing Date: 6/17/2026
Fiscal: Yes

SUBJECT: Household hazardous waste: reporting

DIGEST: This bill requires a public agency, responsible for household hazardous waste (HHW) management, to submit the Form 303 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Report (Form 303) to specified local and state agencies on or before October 1 of each year with reporting information for the prior calendar year.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law:

- 1) Establishes the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) to authorize the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to manage hazardous and non-hazardous wastes throughout the wastes' life cycle. (42 United States Code (USC) §§ 6901 et seq.)

Existing state law:

- 1) Establishes the California Integrated Waste Management Act (IWMA) of 1989, administered by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), generally regulates the disposal, management, and recycling of solid waste. (Public Resources Code (PRC) §§ 40000 et seq.)
- 2) Defines "waste" as any solid, liquid, semisolid, or contained gaseous discarded material. (Health and Safety Code (HSC) § 25124)
- 3) Establishes the Hazardous Waste Control Law (HWCL) to authorize the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to regulate the management of hazardous wastes in California. (HSC §§ 25100 et seq.)
- 4) Defines "hazardous waste" as waste, that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics:
 - a) Causes, or significantly contributes to, an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible, illness; or

- b) Poses a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment, due to factors including, but not limited to, carcinogenicity, acute toxicity, chronic toxicity, bio accumulative properties, or persistence in the environment, when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of, or otherwise managed. (HSC § 25141(b))
- 5) Defines “household hazardous waste” (HHW) as hazardous waste generated incidental to owning or maintaining a place of residence but does not include waste generated in the course of operating a business at a residence. (HSC § 25218.1(e))
- 6) Establishes that counties and cities will provide services for the collection of HHW and that the state will provide an expedited and streamlined regulatory structure to facilitate the collection of HHW. (HSC § 25218)
- 7) Defines “Certified Unified Program Agency” (CUPA) to mean an agency certified by the Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency to implement the unified program, as specified, including, but not limited to ensuring the coordination and consistency of any adopted regulations applicable to facilities operated by HHW collection programs, as specified. (HSC § 25404)
- 8) Requires a public agency that operates a HHW collection facility (HHWCF) to annually submit a copy of the completed California Integrated Waste Management Board Form 303 for the prior fiscal year to a CUPA, or specified agency, and DTSC on or before October 1 of each year. (HSC § 25218.9)
- 9) Requires a public agency that is responsible for HHW management to annually complete and submit a Form 303 HHW Collection Report containing information of the previous fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) to CalRecycle by October 1 of the following fiscal year. (14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) § 18751.2.2)

This bill requires the Form 303 HHW Collection Report (Form 303) to report information for the prior calendar year, instead of the previous fiscal year to the CUPAs, DTSC, and CalRecycle, and makes other technical and non-substantive amendments.

Background

- 1) *Household hazardous waste.* Hazardous waste is a waste with properties that make it potentially dangerous or harmful to human health or the environment. In regulatory terms, a waste is hazardous if it appears on a RCRA hazardous

wastes list or exhibits one of the four characteristics of a hazardous waste: ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity. However, materials can be hazardous waste even if they are not specifically listed or do not exhibit any characteristic of a hazardous waste. Hazardous waste is prohibited from being disposed of in the trash and must be properly transported and disposed of at permitted treatment, storage, and disposal facilities or at a recycling facility.

Household hazardous waste (HHW) is a waste generated by a resident and household. Common HHW includes, but is not limited to, antifreeze, glue and adhesives, pesticides, used oil, batteries, electronic wastes, and household cleaners. These wastes may cause harm to human health and the environment if handled or disposed of incorrectly. In California, HHW is prohibited from being disposed of in the trash, down the drain, or by abandonment, and must be disposed of through a HHW Program. The safest place for a resident to take their HHW is to a household hazardous waste collection facility (HHWCF).

Most HHWCFs are run by local government agencies such as cities or counties. Local agencies may offer several services to assist in the transportation of HHW to a collection facility, including curbside collection programs, mobile collection facilities, door-to-door collection programs, and HHW residential pickup services.

- 2) *HHW collection reporting.* The California Hazardous Waste Control Law provides several management requirements for HHW generators and establishes a streamlined permitting process for HHWCFs. HHWCFs collect a wide variety of hazardous waste from households and report this information and more to a number of different state agencies.

One report HHWCFs are required to generate is the Form 303 HHW Collection Report (Form 303). Form 303 requires facilities to record and report on the type and quantity of HHW received. State agencies use data from Form 303 to track trends in HHW and other related waste collected by HHWCFs. HHWCFs are also required to annually report similar information to state agencies with the previous calendar year as the reporting timeframe. HHWCFs report information on universal waste and treated wood waste for the previous calendar year to DTSC. HHWCFs have other reporting requirements to CalRecycle, such as for covered E-waste, the Electronic Annual Report, and the Used Oil Annual Report, that have the previous calendar year as the reporting timeframe. Form 303, on the other hand, has a reporting timeframe for the previous fiscal year.

This bill would align the reporting timeframe for Form 303 with other reporting requirements, changing the reporting timeframe from the previous fiscal year to the previous calendar year.

Comments

- 1) *Purpose of Bill.* According to the author, “AB 1617 is a common-sense improvement to how California tracks and manages household hazardous waste. By aligning reporting deadlines for both CalRecycle and DTSC, this bill would ease an administrative burden on local agencies and make data clearer to the public.”
- 2) *Streamlining where possible.* Aligning the reporting timeframe for Form 303 with the other related reporting requirements described in the background section above would reduce the workload and administrative costs for local governments and HHWCFs and streamline compliance with reporting requirements. This bill maintains and promotes the legislative intent for the state to provide an “expedited and streamlined permitting and regulatory structure for household hazardous waste” as “overburdensome regulations defeat the objectives of providing convenient and accessible collection facilities and the protection of public health and safety” (HSC § 25218).

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 998 (Hadwick, 2025) would have authorized a school to transport and manage confiscated vape pens as HHW, and required DTSC, in collaboration with CalRecycle, to develop a consolidated reporting document for HHWCFs to submit a single annual report to both DTSC and CalRecycle for the purposes of complying with existing applicable reporting requirements for HHW. This bill was held on the suspense file in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 2481 (Smith, Chapter 499, Statutes of 2022) made various changes to the statutory requirements for the transportation of hazardous waste and the operation of HHWCFs.

SB 552 (Archuleta, Chapter 481, Statutes of 2019) authorized the use of consolidated manifests in the transportation of HHW in door-to-door HHW collection programs.

SB 726 (Caballero, Chapter 485, Statutes of 2019) authorized a public agency’s contractor to conduct HHW materials exchange programs.

SOURCE: Rural County Representatives of California

SUPPORT:

Alameda; County of
California Chapters of the Solid Waste Association of North America's Legislative
Task Force
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Californians Against Waste
Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)

OPPOSITION:

None received

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