



progress updates, collaborating with numerous entities, and partnering with an external contractor for specialized data, Geographic Information System, and modeling support.

- 2) Ongoing annual costs of an unknown amount, ranging from minor and absorbable to the low hundreds of thousands of dollars, for various agencies to collaborate with CNRA on bill implementation.

ARB estimates ongoing annual costs of \$373,000 (General Fund or GGRF) for about two positions to coordinate with CNRA on development of the strategy and to ensure consistency with ARB's scoping plan and the target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by five million metric tons in the state annually. The committee notes ARB's ongoing costs may decrease after the initial publication of the integrated strategy in 2028.

CDFA notes its Office of Agricultural Resilience and Sustainability does not currently have baseline funding; therefore, the department estimates annual costs of approximately \$271,000 (General Fund or GGRF) for two years for additional staffing, operating expenses, and equipment to implement the bill.

CalRecycle and DOC anticipate minor and absorbable costs.

The Legislative Analyst's Office recently warned of General Fund structural deficits of around \$35 billion per year in the 2027-28 fiscal year and ongoing.

#### COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

Composting is a vital climate solution that turns organic waste into a nutrient-rich soil amendment, reducing landfill methane emissions—a potent greenhouse gas. It improves soil structure, boosts water retention to combat droughts, and sequesters carbon in the ground, fostering healthier plant growth while restoring depleted soil ecosystems. To date, California's compost policies are disconnected and scattered throughout state government. This bill builds upon existing policies for natural and working lands to deliver a comprehensive compost strategy for the state.

- 2) **Background. *Organics and Compost.*** 1383 (Lara), Chapter 395, Statutes of 2016, requires ARB to approve and implement a comprehensive short-lived climate pollutant (SLCP) strategy to achieve, by 2030, the following reductions from 2013 levels: a 40% reduction in methane, a 40% reduction in hydrofluorocarbon gases, and a 50% reduction in anthropogenic black carbon. Methane is a powerful SLCP that is 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide over a 20-year timescale. SB 1383 specifies that the methane emission reduction goals include targets to reduce the landfill disposal of organic waste, including food, 50% by 2020 and 75% by 2025 from the 2014 level. SB 1383 also requires that 20% of edible food that would otherwise be sent to landfills be redirected to feed people by 2025. Nearly 40 million tons of waste are disposed of in California's landfills annually, and nearly half of those materials are organics.

To achieve these goals, California's waste management infrastructure is going to have to process and recycle much greater quantities of organic materials, involving significant investments in additional processing infrastructure. Organic waste is primarily recycled by composting the material, which generates compost that can be used, among other things, in gardening and agriculture as a soil amendment. In addition to providing a critical management option for organic waste, compost has significant benefits when used as a soil amendment. For example, one application of compost can store carbon for at least 30, and possibly up to 70, years.

***Healthy Soils.*** CDFA's Healthy Soils Program supports farmers and ranchers to help them incorporate new sustainable agricultural practices into their systems. According to CDFA, farmers and ranchers who implement soil health practices improve crop nutrition, soil structure, water infiltration and storage, biodiversity, pollinator habitat, pest control, carbon sequestration, and human and animal nutrition while reducing soil erosion and greenhouse gas emissions.

Writing in support, a coalition of organizations argues California has yet to fully realize the significant multi-benefits of the compost produced by the state's organic diversion mandate. The coalition writes:

AB 2112 addresses the lack of compost use by requiring [CNRA] to work with [CDFA] and other relevant state agencies to develop and publish an integrated nature-based strategy to link organic diversion goals with soil health strategies on natural and working lands. The bill requires the agencies to build upon and incorporate existing policies and programs to avoid duplication and waste. Further, to ensure efficiency and cost-effectiveness, AB 2112 requires the use of best available science, mapping and land management planning tools to direct priority siting for composting to maximize climate benefits.

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