



**County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors  
Agenda Item Submittal**

**From:** John Leopold, First District Supervisor  
(831) 454-2200

**Subject:** Resolution in support of Assembly Bill 262, the Buy Clean California Act

**Meeting Date:** August 27, 2019

**Recommended Action(s):**

- 1) Adopt resolution in support of Assembly Bill 262, the Buy Clean California Act of 2017, which addresses greenhouse gas emissions within the state of California for purchases for public works projects;
- 2) Direct the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to write a letter to our legislative delegation in support of Assembly Bill 262; and
- 3) Direct the Department of Public Works to encourage vendors to include information regarding greenhouse gas emissions in their product information.

**Executive Summary**

The 2018 United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report states that we have 12 years to make “massive and unprecedented changes” to global energy infrastructure to limit global warming to moderate levels. Therefore, as a proven and demonstrated leader in the fight against climate, the state of California must take immediate action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. AB 262 would require the California Department of General Services to establish a Global Warming Potential (GWP) limit for eligible materials, to include structural steel, carbon steel rebar, flat glass, and mineral wool board insulation. Successful bidders on contracts for state ~~County~~ public works projects will be required to submit an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD). An EPD is an independently verified and registered document that communicates information about the life cycle environmental impact of products. The raw material producer conducts a product life cycle assessment and works with a program operator to verify and publish an EPD.

**Background**

California is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world, and as result a large market influence. The state of California has more than \$100 billion in long-term obligations for infrastructure projects, such as roads, bridges and buildings, spending roughly \$10 billion per year. The Buy Clean California Act ensures that this money will buy key products for these projects from less-polluting manufacturers. Companies in Silicon Valley such as Apple, Google, and even the U.S. Navy have adopted similar policies to Buy Clean products, which subsequently inspired the creation of ~~the~~ AB 262 based on

the private sector's success.

### **Analysis**

This new effort to identify emissions as part of construction materials will enable California taxpayer money to be used to help cut the pollution that causes climate change. It means that suppliers' emissions performance will be considered when an agency is contracting to buy steel, flat glass, and mineral wool (board insulation) for infrastructure projects.

Manufacturers who operate the most polluting plants will no longer be given a "free pass" for their pollution - and manufacturers who have invested in reducing their pollution will see the returns. By including suppliers' emissions performance in procurement decisions, the state can influence business decisions among the many suppliers who want to provide goods to public agencies.

The Buy Clean approach allows California to help clean businesses and industries maintain their position as strong, global leaders on climate action. It creates additional motivation for suppliers to reduce their climate pollution. The state's substantial purchasing power already makes it an attractive market for firms across the United States and around the world.

### **Strategic Plan Element(s)**

4. Sustainable Environment; D. Climate Change

### **Submitted by:**

John Leopold, First District Supervisor

### **Attachments:**

- a Resolution in support of Assembly Bill 262
- b Bill Text- Assembly Bill 262

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO. 184-2019

On the motion of Leopold  
duly seconded by Caput  
the following resolution is adopted

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STATE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THE BUY CLEAN CALIFORNIA ACT OF 2017

WHEREAS, the 2018 United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report stated that we have 12 years to make “massive and unprecedented changes” to global energy infrastructure to limit global warming to moderate levels; and

WHEREAS, immediate action must be taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the state of California is a demonstrated leader in the fight against climate change; and

WHEREAS, the state legislature passed the Buy Clean California Act (AB 262) in 2017, the country's first bill that addresses greenhouse gas emissions within state purchases for public works projects; and

WHEREAS, this bill requires the California Department of General Services to establish a Global Warming Potential (GWP) limit for eligible materials; and

WHEREAS, “eligible materials” include structural steel, carbon steel rebar, flat glass, and mineral wool board insulation; and

WHEREAS, successful bidders on contracts for public works projects are required to submit an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD), which provides emission information on greenhouse gas emissions produced during manufacture, for each of the eligible materials to be used in construction; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Santa Cruz supports and encourages timely implementation of the Buy Clean California Act by the state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Santa Cruz County Department of Public Works take steps to encourage manufacturers of eligible materials used in County public works projects to submit an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) for those products.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 27 day of August, 2019, by the following vote:

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RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BUY CLEAN CALIFORNIA ACT OF 2017

AYES: SUPERVISOR Leopold, Friend, Caput, McPherson, Coonerty  
NOES: SUPERVISOR None  
ABSENT: SUPERVISOR None

**RYAN COONERTY**

CHAIR  
Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: SUSAN GALLOWAY  
Clerk of said Board

Approved as to form:

*C.A. Galloway* 8/21/19  
C.A. County Counsel

Attachment: Resolution in support of Assembly Bill 262 (7750 : Resolution in support of Assembly Bill 262, the Buy Clean California Act)