



Governor Schwarzenegger says “hasta la vista, baby” to recycling

The California “bottle bill” was an ingenious way to encourage people to recycle, while funding programs like ours in which at risk youth are trained and employed to collect recyclable materials from parks, schools and community events. Since 1982, we’ve collected 3 million tons of recyclable material and employed 5,000 young people who might have otherwise wound up in prison.

Because of budget problems, the state’s recycling fund has been hijacked to pay for other programs.

Rather than repay the funds, the Governor proposes that over \$150 million from the recycling funds should be paid in subsidies to the beverage industry, for no discernable environmental purpose or benefit to the taxpayer. In fact, his proposal shifts responsibility for recycling costs of individual containers from the container manufacturers to California consumers. Additionally, Schwarzenegger suggests cutting back on key components of the recycling program, which will essentially make our recycling program inoperable.

We’ve been fighting these changes and have bipartisan support from the state legislature, but Governor Schwarzenegger hasn’t budged.

Please help us by sending the Governor a note demanding he keep our recycling programs alive and our young people working. You can send him an email by visiting <http://gov.ca.gov/interact#email> (choose “budget” as the subject line). Or fax him at 916-558-3160.

This isn’t just about protecting the environment. It’s about protecting jobs and the community as well. Learn more about our recycling program at http://www.conservacioncorpsnorthbay.org/ccnb/wwd_programs_recycling.html.