



June 19, 2023

Joe Stephenshaw
Director, Department of Finance
1021 O Street, Ste 3110
Sacramento, CA 95814

Eliminating Budget Bill Continued SF Bottle Bank Funding/ AB101 Pg 439 Line 7

Mr. Stephenshaw,

I am writing to ask that you exclude from your budget the \$500,000 budgeted under AB101 Page 439 Line 7 for the SF Bottle Bank – a failed mobile recycling pilot project.

After 15 months of operation, the project has redeemed just \$143,000 in bottle and can deposits after expending \$3.6 million. It is costing 79 cents to return a nickel to consumers. Expenses for the program are \$142,000 per month and the most the program has redeemed in a month is \$14,000 in deposits. Giving \$500,000 to the Bottle Bank is throwing good money after bad. It will never be sustainable.

This is why, according to Public Records Act requests, CalRecycle has refused the Bottle Banks's request for \$500,000 in additional funding. Instead, the backers went around CalRecycle and directly to the legislature. This is not a viable program.

KGO recently ran a report about the failing program that can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zt5BpWmW21g> Other details exposed through Public Records Act requests can be found here: <https://consumerwatchdog.org/energy/sf-bottlebank-pilot-to-refund-crv-bottle-deposits-a-bust-coalition-gives-calrecycle-checklist-for-reform/>

CalRecycle can also confirm this information. We urge you to line item veto this budget item. I can be reached at 310-874-9989 if you need more information.

Sincerely,

Jamie Court

Cc: Rachel Wagenor, Director Cal Recycle
Assembly Member Phil Ting
Senator Nancy Skinner

