

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

IMPORTANT TREATED WOOD LEGISLATION PASSES IN CALIFORNIA

The 2004 California State Legislature passed and Governor Schwarzenegger signed AB 1353 sponsored by Assemblymember Barbara Matthews which allows for consumer, government agency and industrial treated wood removed from service to be disposed of in composite lined portions of municipal landfills approved to accept the material. When the management criteria for the materials are met, it exempts them from the state's non-RCRA hazardous waste rules.

“Good Science and cooperation among all parties prevailed in passing this important legislation” according to Dennis Hayward, Executive Director of the Western Wood Preservers Institute, the treated wood industry group which promoted the legislation. For the past couple decades treated wood has been disposed of in lined Class II and III municipal landfills under variances which had become outdated. Without action future disposal of consumer and most construction treated wood waste would have been limited to the state's two Hazardous Waste Landfills “at a great and unnecessary cost to the public”, according to Hayward. “A scientific review of the state's lined municipal landfills accepting treated wood showed that leachate from the materials was well below acceptable limits and that public health and the environment were securely protected.”

Assemblymember Matthews, the sponsor of the legislation summed up the effort: “By working closely with treated wood retailers, businesses, labor groups, environmental organizations, state agencies, the treated wood industry and fellow Legislators we crafted a bill that assures access to the economic, aesthetic, and structural benefits of treated wood while continuing to protect the environment.”

Outreach and Education by Industry, Wholesalers and Retailers.

As part of the bill the participants agreed to an expanded outreach effort to assure both the proper use and disposal of treated wood in the retail and construction

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“Each wholesaler and retailer of treated wood and treated wood-like products in this state shall conspicuously post information at or near the point of display or customer selection of treated wood and treated wood-like products used for fencing, decking, retaining walls, landscaping, outdoor structures, and similar uses.”

industries. Beginning January 1, 2005 wholesalers and retailers will be required to post a warning sign, as specifically detailed in the bill, that outlines for the consumer the proper procedures for handling and using wood treated with EPA registered preservatives. The treating industry will provide the warning posters to the market. This will be followed up closely by the development of disposal guidance that will be communicated to the public and construction users of treated wood products.

Disposal Management Standards

The bill also provides for interim standards for the handling and disposal of waste treated wood that will be replaced by regulations to be developed and implemented by January 2007. The effectiveness of the bill will be monitored and made public for review prior to the 2012 sunset of the legislation.

Mr. Hayward noted that “This legislation is a balanced ‘Win-Win’ solution for all parties directed at assuring safe, economic and environmentally responsible use of treated wood from cradle to grave benefiting all the people of California.” For more information on the bill and the use of treated wood in Californian see [www. WWPInstitute.org](http://www.WWPInstitute.org).

Contact: Dennis Hayward
Executive Director
Western Wood Preservers Institute
360 693-9958