



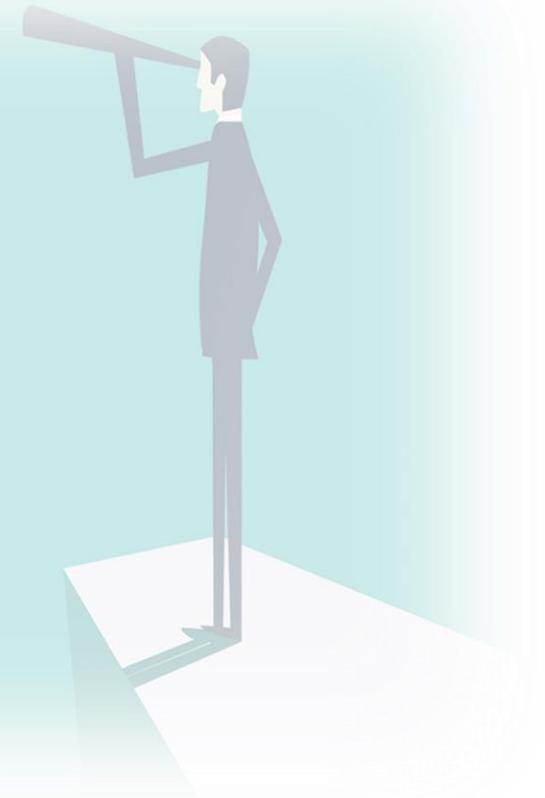
The 2023-24 Budget:

CalRecycle's Zero Waste Plan Proposal

GABRIEL PETEK | LEGISLATIVE ANALYST | MARCH 2023



- Governor's Proposal to fund the implementation of the Zero Waste Plan (ZWP)
- Background on CalRecycle Waste Management and Recycling Programs
- LAO's Assessment of CalRecycle meeting its Core Responsibilities
- LAO's Recommendation





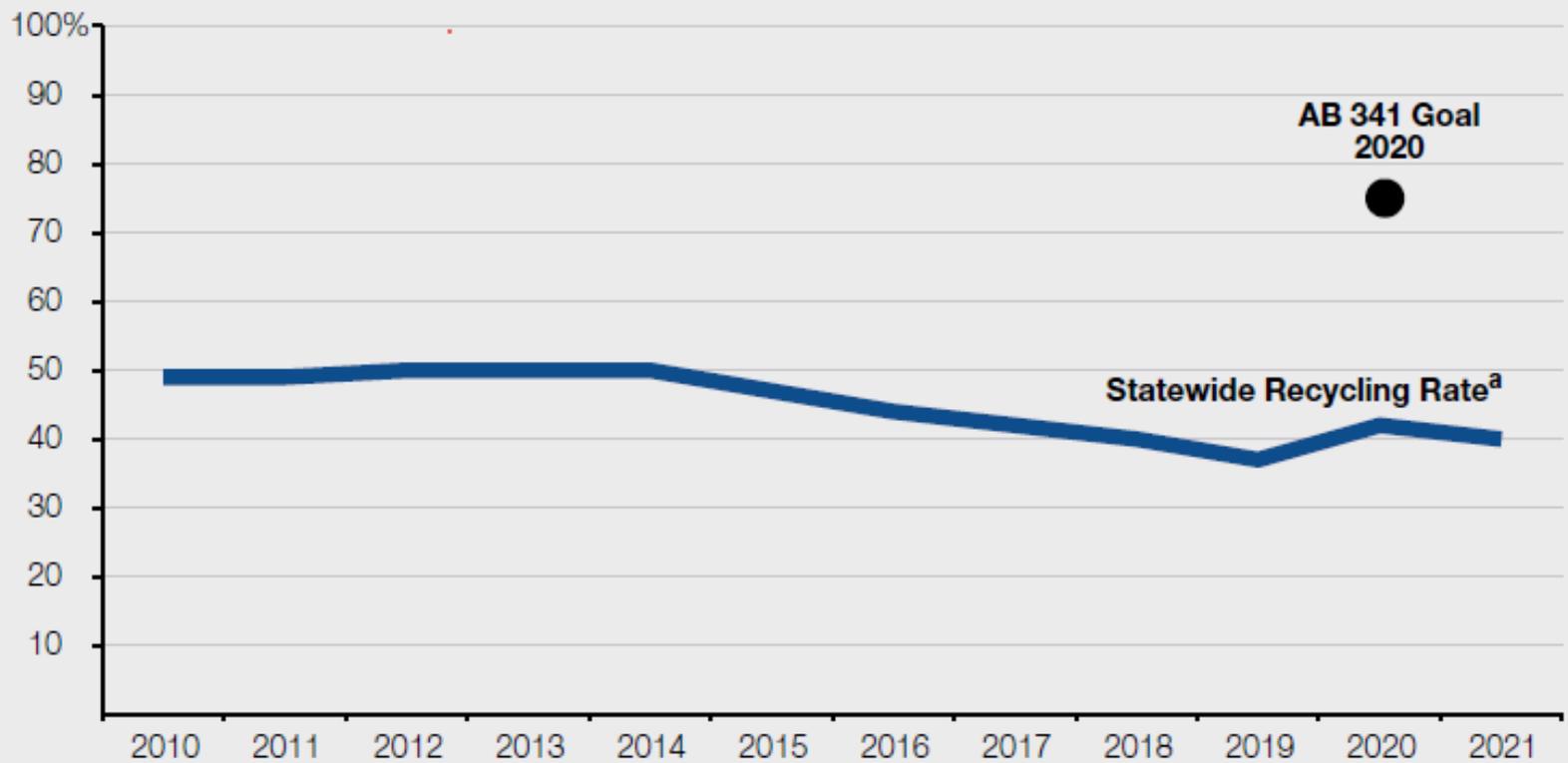
Governor's Proposal

- Proposes funding to assess programs and implement a ZWP
- The ZWP would:
 - identify gaps in CalRecycle's programs and existing laws
 - recommend changes needed for the state to meet and exceed the goal established under AB 341 (Chesbro, 2011) by 2035
- CalRecycle would aim to complete the plan in fall 2025



Figure 1

Progress on Achieving AB 341 Goal



^a In measuring the state's progress on meeting the AB 341 goal, the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery uses the term recycling for a range of activities related to source reduction, recycling, and composting—including anaerobic digestion.

Background on CalRecycle's Waste Management and Recycling Programs

CalRecycle's Core Responsibilities



Core Responsibilities:

- 1) Identifying program shortcomings and
- 2) implementing improvements

Recent legislation expanded CalRecycle's responsibilities for certain waste streams

CalRecycle should already be engaged in conducting program evaluations on an ongoing basis





LAO finds that ZWP is premature when:

- 1) The state has made minimal progress towards the current statutory AB 341 goal
- 2) A new goal has not been established in statute

The proposed ZWP is similar to the one that CalRecycle previously was required to complete under AB 341

Providing CalRecycle with \$2 million for contract support and an ongoing increase of \$300K for two new positions to review its existing programs does **not** seem justified

- (1) Many of the activities that would be completed under the ZWP should already be occurring within CalRecycle
- 2) CalRecycle's ZWP would become quickly outdated as recently enacted legislation is implemented
- (3) The "high-level" nature of ZWP would make it difficult to identify specific improvements to individual programs



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