



**Los Angeles County  
Solid Waste Management Committee/  
Integrated Waste Management Task Force**

# **Basel Convention Global Treaty**

# Waste Management Laws

## What Does Basel Do? - Soft Law

- Calls for national self-sufficiency in waste management (Art. 4.2.b)
- Calls for minimizing all forms of transboundary movement of hazardous and other wastes (Art. 4.2.d)
- Calls for minimizing the generation of hazardous and other waste (Art. 4.2.a)
- Calls for ensuring environmentally sound management of that which is produced (Art. 4.8)

# Hazardous and Other Waste Definitions

**Defines “hazardous waste” and “other wastes” (Scope of Convention, Art. 1)**

**“Hazardous Waste”:**

1. According to Annexes (I,III and VIII)
2. According to National Law of a Country involved in trade scenario

**“Other Waste”** (Annex II, wastes for special consideration)

1. Wastes collected from households
2. Incinerator ash from incinerating household waste,
3. Certain plastic wastes.

**What Does  
Basel Do?  
-  
Hard Law**

# Cause for Amendments

- ***National Sword*** – China bans plastic imports on (1 March 2018) for plastic scrap unless purity were 99.5%. The move created plastic waste trade chaos.
- ***Marine Pollution by Plastics*** – Multiple discoveries of the degree of plastic pollution, particularly in the oceans has created serious alarm.
- ***Basel is Legally Binding Treaty ready to Use*** – Seen as obvious first immediate step to better control trade in problematic plastic waste.

**Why the  
Plastics  
Amendments?**

# Plastic Waste Amendments

## The Basel Plastics Amendments / What Changes?

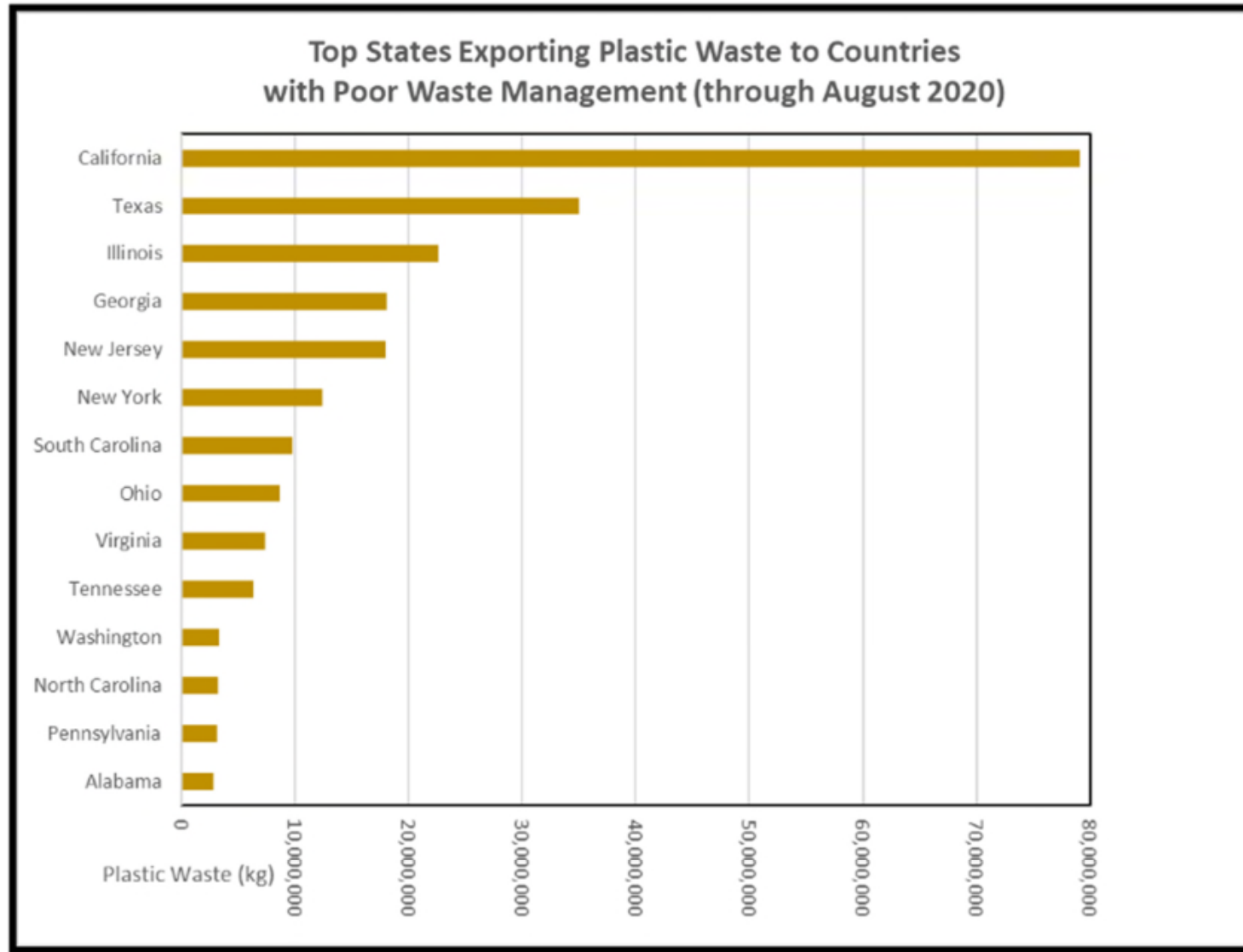
### Before

- No country controlled plastic waste trade
- No specific listings on hazardous waste list (Annex VIII)
- Some plastic waste listed as non-hazardous (Annex IX)
- No plastics on Annex II unless it was part of the "wastes collected from households" category"

### After January 2021

- New plastic listing on Annex VIII (hazardous waste) (PIC or Ban)  
→ **Impact Small**
- Annex IX (non-hazardous) listing strengthened. (no control)  
→ **Impact Small-Medium**
- New listing on Annex II (wastes for special consideration) for all other plastic wastes (PIC or Ban)  
→ **Impact Big!**

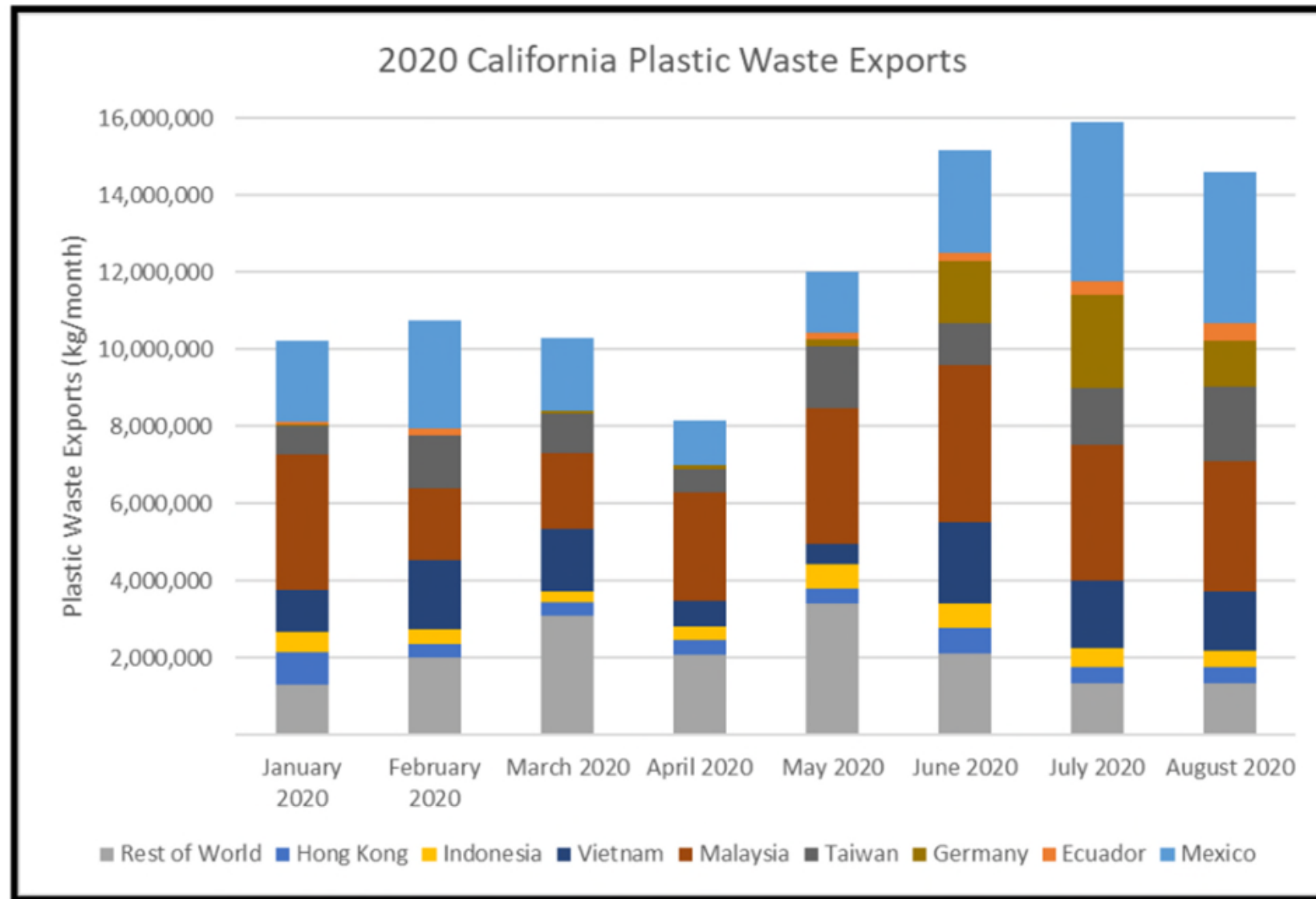
# California Tops U.S. States Exporting Plastic Waste



## Key Messages:

- California leads in exports of plastic waste to countries with poor waste management
- California's 75% diversion goal pushing exports without proof that plastic is properly recycled

# 2020 Destination of California Plastic Waste Exports



## Top Destinations:

- **Malaysia: 55% Waste Mismanagement**
- **Mexico: 12% Waste Mismanagement**
- **Vietnam: 86% Waste Mismanagement**

# International Response to US Plastic Waste Exports

**WASTEDIVE** Deep Dive Opinion Library Events Topics ▾

**COLUMN**

## Scrap Collector: US stands as lone OECD opponent of Basel plastic amendment

Plus: Cambodia returning illegal plastic waste imports, and Delhi cracking down on food waste at social functions.





# California Legislative Action

- Senate Resolution (SR) 47 (June 2019, Senator Wieckowski)
  - Urging Congress to take action to ratify the Basel Convention
- Assembly Joint Resolution (AJR) 4  
(Introduced January 2021, Assemblymember Cristina Garcia)
  - Urging the Biden Administration to make ratifying the Basel Convention a priority
  - Ten Legislative Co-Sponsors
  - Broad Coalition – Including LA County

# Questions?



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