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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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March 31, 2005

The Honorable Barbara S. Matthews
State Capitol
Room 5155
Sacramento, CA 94249-0017

Dear Assembly Member Matthews:

ASSEMBLY BILL 1090: CONVERSION TECHNOLOGIES: DIVERSION

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force supports Assembly Bill 1090 as introduced February 22, 2005, relating to Solid Waste: Diversion: Conversion.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939, as amended), the Task Force is responsible for coordinating the development of all major solid waste planning documents prepared for the County of Los Angeles and its 88 cities. Consistent with these responsibilities, and to ensure a coordinated and cost-effective solid waste management system, the Task Force addresses issues impacting the solid waste management system throughout the County. The Task Force membership includes representatives of the League of California Cities--Los Angeles County Division, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, the City of Los Angeles, the waste management industry, environmental groups, the public and a number of other governmental agencies.

AB 1090 would allow for the reprioritization of the waste management hierarchy to include conversion technologies and redefine these technologies more accurately. This bill would also provide jurisdictions that utilize conversion technology facilities with diversion credit towards meeting the State's 50 percent waste diversion mandate, an important incentive to promote the development of these technologies.

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Currently, State law (AB 939) requires cities and counties in California to reduce the amount of waste disposed in landfills and incinerators, and each County to assure adequate disposal capacity for the residual solid waste remaining over a rolling 15-year planning period. In a report released by the California Integrated Waste Management Board in December 2004, Californians disposed of over 40 million tons of solid waste in 2003, approximately two million tons more than in 1998. Of the 40 million tons of post-recycled waste materials disposed in landfills, over 75 percent consisted of organic waste materials (including agricultural waste) that can be recovered for beneficial use instead of being landfilled. The Task Force strongly believes that the development of conversion technology facilities can assist jurisdictions in meeting both requirements as well as reducing our needs for more landfills.

On March 15, 2005, the Waste Board approved a comprehensive report which found that conversion technologies "can result in substantial environmental benefits for California," including reduction in landfill disposal, production of renewable energy, reduced dependence on fossil fuels, and a reduction of greenhouse gases, all while complementing California's recycling infrastructure and complying with strict environmental safeguards.

Conversion technologies can address not only the State's growing solid waste management needs but also California's demand for locally produced, clean and renewable energy, fuels, and additive replacements for MTBE such as ethanol. Therefore we encourage the Legislature to clarify any conflicting statutes in order to ensure that these technologies are considered renewable energy sources. The State of California has established ambitious goals to increase our use of renewable energy within the State. California is rich in biomass feedstocks that could be put to better use by converting them into usable products, clean burning fuels, and renewable energy.

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Therefore, the Task Force **supports** AB 1090 and further supports any future enhancements to the legislation that would assure conversion technologies are considered renewable energy sources. Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



Michael Miller, Vice-Chair
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force and
Councilmember, City of West Covina

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cc: Governor's Office of Legislative Affairs
Governor's Los Angeles Field Office
Cabinet Secretary (Terry Tamminen)
Assembly Member Loni Hancock, Chair, Natural Resources Committee
Each Member of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Each Member of the Assembly Agriculture Committee
Assembly Member Fran Pavley
Assembly Member Christine Kehoe
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
Each City Mayor in the County of Los Angeles
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities
League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division
Southern California Association of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Solid Waste Association of North America
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Force