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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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May 19, 2005

The Honorable Cindy Montañez
The State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3013
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Montañez:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 399 (AMEDNED MAY 11, 2005)
RECYCLING: MULTI-FAMILY DWELLINGS**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **opposes unless amended** Assembly Bill 399 (AB 399)–Recycling: Multi-family Dwellings.

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 by the County and the 88 cities in the County of Los Angeles. Consistent with these responsibilities and to ensure a coordinated and cost-effective solid waste management system in the County of Los Angeles, the Task Force also addresses issues impacting the system on a Countywide basis. 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 399, if enacted, would require the California Integrated Waste Management Board by May 1, 2007, to make available a model multi-family recycling ordinance that could be adopted by local governments. Moreover, local governments would also be required to provide specified information to owners of multi-family dwellings at the time a building permit is issued. Furthermore, owners of multi-family dwellings constructed after May 1, 2007, will need to arrange for onsite recycling services for their tenants.

The Task Force applauds your efforts for introducing AB 399 because it recognizes the importance of increasing recycling services to multi-family residences in order for local governments to be able to achieve the State's 50 percent waste reduction mandate. However, from a public policy standpoint, we are concerned that by requiring onsite recycling for multi-family residences, the Bill will inadvertently discourage the utilization

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of materials recycling facilities or other innovative recycling programs which may be more effective for certain local jurisdictions. It would also fail to take advantage of economies of scale that are recognized when recycling programs are implemented by a jurisdiction. Therefore, while we believe that onsite recycling provides numerous advantages, for example inculcating residents with a sense of duty to recycle, a one-size-fits-all model would be counterproductive since it would infringe local jurisdictions' flexibility in designing recycling programs according to the characteristics and needs of their communities. We request this provision be amended to allow jurisdictions the choice to customize a program that works best for their specific needs.

Therefore, the Task Force **opposes unless amended** AB 399. 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
Councilmember, City of West Covina

RF/CS:sm
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cc: Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata
Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez
Each Member of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Each Member of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation
California Integrated Waste Management Board
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
Each City Mayor of 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
Solid Waste Association of North America
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
California Apartment Association
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County