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CHAIRMAN

LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
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March 17, 2005

Ms. Rosario Marin, Chair  
California Integrated Waste Management Board  
Cal-EPA Building  
1001 "I" Street  
Sacramento, CA 95812-4025

Dear Chairwoman Marin:

**CLASSIFICATION OF CONVERSION TECHNOLOGIES IN THE  
COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT AMENDMENT PROCESS**

The County of Los Angeles, in coordination with the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force), is currently revising the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element (Siting Element). We are also in the process of analyzing the development of a conversion technology demonstration facility since we believe these technologies have the potential to divert residual solid waste from landfilling and incineration while converting these materials into useful products, fuels, and clean sources of energy.

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, the Task Force addresses issues impacting the solid waste management 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.

At a recent Task Force meeting, questions were raised regarding whether or not the location of potential/proposed conversion technology facilities must be identified in the Siting Element. At present, conversion technologies are categorized as solid waste

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disposal facilities. Under current regulations, all solid waste disposal facilities must be listed in the Siting Element in order to be issued with a Solid Waste Facility permit prior to its becoming operational. As you may know, we maintain that conversion technologies are not disposal facilities and should not be required to be identified in the Siting Element. If a conversion technology facility is considered a disposal facility, it would necessitate the project proponent or the County to pay for amending the Siting Element which in the County of Los Angeles is a two-year process that costs approximately \$250,000. This expensive and time-consuming process would stifle the development of conversion technology facilities within the County of Los Angeles. Since a number of conversion technology facilities are being considered or planned, we request the Waste Board to provide a written clarification to address this question.

We look forward to your timely response, since our Siting Element amendment process is currently under way. Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147.

Very truly yours,



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

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cc: Each Member of the California Integrated Waste Management Board  
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 Task Force