



GAIL FARBER, CHAIR
MARGARET CLARK, VICE-CHAIR

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
P.O. BOX 1460, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460
www.lacountyiswmf.org

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***** FLOOR ALERT *****

To: Members, California State Senate

From: Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

Re: **OPPOSE AB 1634 – SOLID WASTE: COMMERCIAL ORGANICS GENERATORS**

For the reasons listed below, the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force **STRONGLY OPPOSES** Assembly Bill 1634, which would mandate CalRecycle by January 1, 2018, to adopt regulations requiring “large-quantity commercial organics generators” (public entities, businesses, and multifamily dwellings of more than four units) to provide for separate collection of organics and recycling services.

- The Bill’s August 24, 2012, amendment (gut and amend) is circumventing the legislative process by not allowing adequate time for the full deliberation of the proposal, which has a significant negative financial impact on local governments and businesses.
- The proposal attempts to by-pass the current efforts by CalRecycle and stakeholders in preparation of a report to the Legislature pursuant to AB 341 (2011) to address/evaluate the concepts being proposed by AB 1634.
- The proposal requires source separation of all organics, both “compostable organics” such as green waste, food scraps, meat products, etc., and “non-compostable organics” such as those with a fossil fuel origin. However, the proposal fails to address/provide for the needed infrastructure to divert separately collected organics from landfills. Therefore, this proposal would burden public entities and businesses with a very costly activity that would not yield any benefits for better managing organics.
- The proposal defines a “large-quantity commercial organics generator” as a public entity, business, etc., that generates “significant amounts of organic waste...” However, the proposal fails to define the term “significant,” which is crucial to compliance.

As provided by AB 939 (1989) and Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code, the Task Force is responsible for coordinating the development of major solid waste planning documents for Los Angeles County and the 88 cities in the County with a population of over ten million. The Task Force also addresses issues impacting the solid waste management system on a countywide basis.

For these foregoing reasons, the **Task Force strongly opposes AB 1634 and respectfully requests your “Nay” vote**. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or (909) 592-1147.

cc: Assembly Members Chesbro, Lowenthal and Williams