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MARGARET CLARK, VICE-CHAIR

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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April 26, 2011

The Honorable Cameron Smyth, Chair
Assembly Local Government Committee
State Capitol Room 4098
Sacramento, CA 94249-0038

Dear Assemblymember Smyth:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 818 (INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 17, 2011)
SOLID WASTE: MULTIFAMILY DWELLINGS**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **opposes** Assembly Bill 818 (AB 818), which would require an owner of a multifamily residential dwelling consisting of five or more units to arrange for recycling services.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939 [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 the 88 cities in Los Angeles County with a combined population in excess of ten million. Consistent with these responsibilities and to ensure a coordinated, cost-effective, and environmentally sound solid waste management system in Los Angeles County, 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, County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, City of Los Angeles, waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

AB 818, if enacted, would require the owner of a multifamily dwelling consisting of five or more units to arrange for appropriate and available recycling services. Consistent with waste reduction mandates of AB 939, the Task Force supports efforts to provide a convenient recycling opportunity for multifamily dwelling units. At the same time, the authority to implement recycling requirements for multifamily dwellings lies within a jurisdiction's purview providing the jurisdiction is in compliance with the waste reduction mandates of AB 939. As such, the Task Force believes this authority should remain with the local jurisdiction.

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In addition, AB 818 bill would only increase the supply of recyclables collected without addressing the corresponding market demand for these recyclables. The recent global economic downturn has negatively affected the State's already weakened recycling industry. As a result, the lack of demand for recyclables in the Pacific Rim countries we rely on has resulted in many recyclables being stockpiled, which may ultimately be disposed of in landfills.

Lastly, AB 818 seems redundant of regulatory efforts already well underway to require multi-family residences to provide recycling services as a part of the Air Resources Board's (ARB) mandatory commercial recycling regulations. As presently drafted, AB 818 would create additional confusion regarding the ARB measure. For example, as defined in AB 818, 'mixed waste processing' could be read to exclude certain material recovery facilities from being used by a jurisdiction in meeting the bill's requirements.

For these reasons, the Task Force **opposes** AB 818. Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



Margaret Clark, Vice-Chair
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force and
Council Member, City of Rosemead

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cc: Each Member of the Assembly Local Government Committee
Assembly Member Blumenfield
Assembly Member Chesbro
Senator Pavley
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
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County