



GAIL FARBER, CHAIR  
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LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
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June 20, 2011

The Honorable Joe Simitian, Chair  
Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
State Capitol Room 2205  
Sacramento, CA 94248-0001

Dear Senator Simitian:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 1149 (INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 18, 2011)  
BEVERAGE CONTAINERS: RECYCLING AND LITTER REDUCTION: FUNDS**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports and requests you amend** Assembly Bill 1149 (AB 1149), which would extend the sunset date for CalRecycle's plastic market development program to continue investment until January 1, 2017.

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.

Existing law, the Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act (Bottle Bill) provides funds to support California-based recyclers and manufacturers using empty plastic beverage containers. AB 1149 would extend the plastic market development program and funding authority until January 1, 2017. According to the bill's Assembly Floor Analysis, previous funding cuts "damaged the state's recycling infrastructure and directly contributed to the loss of at least 500 jobs statewide." Specifically, the plastic market development program uses surplus redemption funds from the California Beverage Container Recycling Fund (Fund) to make payments of up to \$150 per ton to California-based processors and manufacturers that recycle and utilize post-consumer plastic beverage containers.

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The Task Force is in strong support of the State continuing and expanding their efforts to promote the development of markets within the State for recyclable materials and products. However, surplus funds from the Fund have historically been loaned to the General Fund in prior Budget Acts, which is causing havoc for the ability of the Fund to maintain strong recycling markets especially during times of recession when such support is needed most. Therefore, the Task Force requests amendments be incorporated into the bill to ensure the state cannot "raid" the funds in the future.

Were the plastic market development program allowed to sunset, hundreds of California jobs might be lost, recyclable material disposed of in landfills would increase, and California's export rate (already in excess of 90%) of plastic collected for recycling would increase. For these reasons, the Task Force **supports and requests you amend** AB 1149. 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: Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg  
Assemblymember Gordon  
Assemblymember Wieckowski  
Each Member of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation  
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors  
Each City Mayor and City Manager 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