



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.lacountyiswmtf.org](http://www.lacountyiswmtf.org)

GAIL FARBER  
CHAIR

May 4, 2010

TO: All City Mayors and County Board of Supervisors

### **URGENT REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 222 – CONVERSION TECHNOLOGIES**

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force), I am writing to share with you some exciting news regarding Assembly Bill 222 (AB 222) and urge you to send a **letter of support** for this bill. If enacted, this bill would level the playing field for the development of conversion technology facilities in California, thereby improving the economy, reducing pollution, generating renewable energy such as electricity and biofuels, and reducing our dependence on landfill disposal of post-recycled solid waste residuals.

AB 222 is critical in ensuring conversion technology projects have a regulatory pathway for development. Numerous California municipalities are considering conversion technologies to reduce our dependence on landfilling, create green collar jobs, and provide a way for us to shift to more sustainable solid waste management practices.

Last year, the Task Force made a similar request (see enclosed letter dated April 20, 2009), and because of letters of support from cities and other stakeholders, including over 80 supporting organizations, the bill passed the State Assembly with bipartisan support and was approved by the Senate Utilities and Commerce Committee. The Senate Environmental Quality Committee elected to hold the bill for consideration last year. Passage of this critical legislation hinges on the consideration and adoption of the bill by the Senate Environmental Quality Committee this summer.

It is exciting to see so many new developments regarding conversion technologies in California including developments by local governments as well as new research corroborating the environmental benefits of conversion technologies. Last year the University of California at Riverside, in coordination with the BioEnergy Producers Association, released a report entitled *Evaluation of Emissions from Thermal Conversion Technologies Processing Municipal Solid Waste (June 2009)* identifying 100 gasification/pyrolysis facilities operating around the world. Detailed emissions profiles of 16 facilities (four of which are operating in the United States) indicate that most of them already meet emissions standards in California while also meeting standards of their host country.

Another positive development occurred on April 15, 2010, when California's three largest planning and regulating agencies relating to solid waste, air quality, and energy joined together in support of AB 222. In their joint letter (copy enclosed), the Air Resources Board, Energy Commission, and Department of Resource Recycling and Recovery stated, "AB 222 **supports** innovation and the introduction of a range of new technologies for production of biofuels and renewable energy from organic wastes that **meets California's environmental standards**" (emphasis added).

Interest and movement towards conversion technology development also continues to grow throughout cities and counties in California. On April 20, 2010, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors approved the next phases of their conversion technology efforts by moving forward with three demonstration projects and expediting the siting and selection of commercial scale conversion facilities within Los Angeles County. On the same day, the Glendale City Council approved a motion to assemble a project team to research, analyze, report, and recommend a waste conversion project for the City of Glendale. The motion also provided funding to research emerging technologies to help meet the City's long-term waste reduction goals. We have also seen efforts by cities and counties such as the Cities of Calabasas, Lancaster, Long Beach, Los Angeles, San Diego and Tulare and the Counties of San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, and Sacramento as well as the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority (joint powers agency comprised of the Cities of Gonzales, Greenfield, King City, Salinas, and Soledad and eastern Monterey County) among others.

In order for these important developments to move forward, it is vital that this legislation is passed to provide a clear regulatory pathway for development. Therefore we urge you to contact the members of the California State Senate Committee on Environmental Quality and let them know you are in support of AB 222. A sample letter is enclosed for your use.

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 for the County of Los Angeles and the 88 cities in Los Angeles County with a combined population in excess of 10 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, 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.

City Mayors & County Board of Supervisors  
May 4, 2010  
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If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,

*Margaret Clark*

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

Enc.

TM/CS:

cc: Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors  
Each City Council Member in Los Angeles County  
County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Officer  
Each City Manager in Los Angeles County  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force



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GAIL FARBER  
CHAIR

April 20, 2009

TO: All City Mayors and County Board of Supervisors in California

### **URGENT REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 222**

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force), I am writing to urge you to **support** Assembly Bill 222 (AB 222). If enacted, AB 222 as amended on April 14, 2009, would level the playing field for the development of advanced biorefinery facilities within California, thereby spurring economic development, reducing pollution, generating renewable energy, and reducing dependence on landfill disposal of waste.

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 for the County of Los Angeles and the 88 cities in the County of Los Angeles with a combined population in excess of ten million. Consistent with these responsibilities, and to ensure a coordinated, and cost-effective and environmentally-sound 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.

For many years, local governments have led the efforts to establish a pathway for permitting advanced conversion technology facilities that could make more productive use of our waste and biomass resources. Conversion technologies refer to an array of biological, chemical and thermal technologies (other than combustion) capable of converting post-recycled (residual) solid waste into useful products, green fuels, and clean, renewable energy. These technologies, already proven effective in Europe and Japan, hold significant promise for revolutionizing the way we manage waste. AB 222 if enacted, would correct scientifically flawed definitions within the California's Public Resources Code which have dampened the development of conversion technologies. AB 222 would also establish a new category of industries, termed biorefineries, under

City Mayors and County Board of Supervisors in California  
April 20, 2009  
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which conversion technologies would be regulated, thereby leveling the playing field for the development of these facilities within California.

AB 222, which is co-authored by a bipartisan coalition of ten Assembly Members, is set to be heard in the Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee on April 27, 2009; therefore it is vital to get as many letters of support in advance of the hearing in order to support the passage of this legislation. A sample letter is enclosed for your use.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,

*Margaret Clark*

MARGARET CLARK, VICE-CHAIR  
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/  
Integrated Waste Management Task Force and  
Mayor, City of Rosemead

CS\TM:ca

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Enc.

cc: Each City Council Member  
Each City Manager  
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Officer

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 Ninth Street Sacramento, California 95814  
Main website: [www.energy.ca.gov](http://www.energy.ca.gov)

**AIR RESOURCES BOARD**

1001 I Street Sacramento, California 95814  
Main website: [www.arb.ca.gov](http://www.arb.ca.gov)

**DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES RECYCLING  
AND RECOVERY**

801 K Street, Sacramento, California 95814  
Main website: [www.calrecycle.ca.gov](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov)



April 15, 2010

The Honorable Joe Simitian  
Chair, Senate Committee on Environmental Quality  
State Capitol Building, Room 2205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support for AB 222 Regarding Energy from Biogenic Waste

Dear Senator Simitian:

As members of the Bioenergy Interagency Working Group, the California Energy Commission, CalRecycle, and the California Air Resources Board, we write in support of AB 222. Enactment of AB 222 would assist California in meeting State renewable energy and low carbon fuel goals.

Since 2006, the Bioenergy Interagency Working Group has advocated in its Bioenergy Action Plan to *"Amend existing law to revise existing technology definitions and establish new ones, where needed. In particular, review the definitions of gasification, transformation, fermentation, pyrolysis, and manufacturing. Such statutory clarification would enable the utilization of biomass residues through combustion or non-combustion technology."* (Bioenergy Action Plan, July 2006, p.9).

AB 222 would allow new non-incineration technologies to be used in the production of renewable biofuels and electricity from biogenic material diverted from California's landfills. It would achieve this by removing current statutory restrictions that require thermal conversion projects to have zero emissions, a standard required of no other energy generation technology or manufacturing process in the State and one that effectively precludes any municipal solid waste (MSW) conversion technologies from qualifying for California's Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS).

AB 222 would make it easier for electricity produced from the biogenic waste stream to qualify as renewable electricity under California's RPS. Increasing access to biogenic waste creates another option, thereby enhancing California's ability to meet its ambitious RPS goals while complementing the State's diverse portfolio of renewable energy resources including wind, solar, geothermal, and biomass.

The Honorable Joe Simitian  
April 15, 2010  
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New conversion technologies would assist California in developing local fuel sources as part of the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) thereby making better use of resources and providing other benefits. As the LCFS is implemented, additional sources for producing low carbon fuel will be needed to meet the increasing demand. Utilization of MSW can help meet this increased demand and potentially reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as, on a life-cycle basis, GHG reductions are highest for conversion of local organic waste materials into fuels because they do not require the growing, harvesting, and transportation of cellulosic plant materials. Further, AB 222 would increase the likelihood that landfill methane would be better used in fuel production rather than being flared. It would also help to promote technology innovation and foster green jobs.

On February 4, 2010, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its final rule for the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS2) allowing the biogenic portion of post-recycled MSW to qualify for the use in the production of advanced biofuels. The renewable fuel provisions of AB 222 would make California consistent with the EPA ruling.

AB 222 supports innovation and the introduction of a range of new technologies for production of biofuels and renewable energy from organic wastes that meets California's environmental standards. Additionally, because only post-recycled waste materials will be used, AB 222 would not weaken the State's policy on recycling. In 2008 alone, an estimated 39.7 million tons of municipal waste were deposited into California landfills when this material could instead be used for energy generation and low carbon fuel production.

We urge your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



James D. Boyd, Chair  
Bioenergy Interagency Working Group  
Commissioner and Vice Chair  
California Energy Commission



Margo Reid Brown  
Acting Director  
Department of Resources Recycling  
and Recovery



Mary D. Nichols  
Chair  
California Air Resources Board

cc: Members, Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
The Honorable Anthony Adams  
The Honorable Fiona Ma  
Carol Mortensen, Consultant to Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Lance Christensen, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus  
John Moffatt, Office of the Governor  
Chris Mowrer, Natural Resources Agency  
Carolyn Baker, California Environmental Protection Agency

## SAMPLE LETTER

May\_\_\_\_, 2010

The Honorable Joe Simitian, Chair  
Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2080  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Simitian:

### **SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 222: BIOREFINERIES**

The City of \_\_\_\_\_ supports Assembly Bill 222 (AB 222) relating to biorefineries.

Currently, State law (AB 939) requires cities and counties in California to reduce the amount of waste disposed in landfills and incinerators. Additionally, California has set an ambitious goal of deriving 33 percent of our energy from renewable sources. Conversion technologies, which convert residual, post-recycled solid waste into renewable energy, green fuels and other marketable products, could help the State achieve these important goals in an environmentally sustainable manner.

If enacted, AB 222 would establish a new category of industries, termed biorefineries, and correct scientifically flawed definitions within the California's Public Resources Code, which have hampered the development of conversion technologies, thereby leveling the playing field for the development of these facilities within California.

With landfill space at a premium and disposal rates expected to increase, California jurisdictions must invest in alternatives to landfill disposal such as conversion technologies and biorefineries that reduce disposal rates, generate jobs, and utilize abundant biomass and organic waste material. Developing such facilities in California has the potential to reduce the environmental impacts of solid waste management (including the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere), complement our recycling industry, and lessen our dependence on landfilling all while complying with strict environmental standards.

Recent research by the University of California at Riverside indicates that conversion technologies can meet the most stringent emission standards in California. Their study, *Evaluation of Emissions from Thermal Conversion Technologies Processing Municipal Solid Waste (June 2009)*, identified 100 gasification/pyrolysis facilities operating around the world. Detailed emissions profiles of 16 facilities (four of which are operating in the United States) indicate that most of them already meet emissions standards in California while also meeting standards of their host country.

State regulatory agencies also understand the importance of conversion technologies. On April 15, 2010, California's three largest planning and regulating agencies relating to solid waste, air quality and energy joined together in support of AB 222. In their joint letter, the Air Resources Board, Energy Commission, and Department of Resource Recycling and Recovery stated, "AB 222 supports innovation and the introduction of a range of new technologies for production of biofuels and renewable energy from organic wastes that **meets California's environmental standards**" (emphasis added).

Senator Simitian  
Page 2 of 2

We understand the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality will be reviewing AB 222 shortly, which we will be closely monitoring, and we urge your full support for this important legislative proposal. Should you have any questions, please contact \_\_\_\_\_.

Sincerely,

Mayor, City of \_\_\_\_\_

cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Senate President Pro-Tem  
Speaker of the Assembly  
Assembly Members Adams and Ma  
Each Member of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County State Legislative Delegation  
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors  
League of California Cities  
California State Association of Counties  
Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force