



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
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www.lacountyiswmtf.org

November 7, 2013

Caroll Mortensen, Director
Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95812

Dear Ms. Mortensen:

COMMENTS REGARDING UPDATE ON AB 341 LEGISLATIVE REPORT - STATEWIDE STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE THE 75% GOAL BY 2020 BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES RECYCLING AND RECOVERY (CalRecycle), DATED OCTOBER 2013

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) would like to thank you for releasing the Update on AB 341 Report to the Legislature (Update) and the opportunity to comment on the document. AB 341 (Chapter 476 of the State statute of 2011) establishes a statewide goal to manage 75 percent of all solid waste generated in California through source reduction, recycling, and composting processes by 2020. We previously expressed a number of concerns regarding the draft Report in our April 11, 2012, letter (copy enclosed). While the Update recognizes some of those concerns, CalRecycle continues to propose monumental structural, regulatory, and legislative changes to the way solid waste is managed without consideration of the benefit on public health and safety and the economic wellbeing of Californians. Local governments and private waste management companies in California have been successfully managing waste in an environmentally safe manner for the last several decades. As a result of local government and private sector efforts and significant expenditures on the part of rate payers, Californians are now enjoying a diversion rate of 65%, the highest in the nation.

The Task Force concerns have been described numerous times in previous correspondence so we will not reiterate them again. However, the Task Force would like to highlight our main overarching concerns with (1) the lack of a comprehensive and transparent Lifecycle Analysis (LCA), (2) the lack of any feasibility study for a number of selected programs, (3) the lack of economic analysis, and (4) the proposal to decrease the allowable per capita disposal rate from 12.6 to 10.7 pounds per person per day as provided pursuant to SB 1016 (Chapter 343 of the State statute of 2008). This per capita disposal rate reduction means a much higher diversion rate than the 75% goal as mandated by AB 341. If implemented, it could cost the 89 jurisdictions in the County of Los Angeles over \$200 million annually to comply with.

The Update identifies six focus areas that CalRecycle intends to pursue through new programs, policies, regulatory, and legislative changes: (1) Moving Organics Out of the Landfill, (2) Continuing Reform of the Beverage Container Recycling Program, (3) Expanding the Recycling/Manufacturing Infrastructure, (4) Exploring New Models for State and Local Funding of Materials Management Programs, (5) Promoting Extended Producer Responsibility, and (6) Promoting State Procurement of Post-Consumer Recycled Content Products. The Task Force strongly recommends that a seventh focus area be added to conduct a comprehensive and transparent LCA.

The Task Force is a longtime advocate of conducting a comprehensive, transparent and factual LCA of all waste management options, including recycling, composting, conversion, transformation, and landfilling, so they can be properly placed within a hierarchy of highest and best use. This is an opportunity to evaluate not only the management technique but also the material type that should be prioritized for management. The LCA must include the transportation impacts, market availability, and economics for all waste management options.

Several of the concepts listed in Appendix B should not be considered unless they have been thoroughly vetted through an LCA; specifically, those concepts mandating particular management practices for certain materials in the wastestream (2a, 2b, 7a, 7c, 7h, and 10a) and concepts adding a new reporting measure or additional responsibility for local governments or facility owners (1b, 1i, 1j, 2f, 3a, 3b, 7e, 8b, and 8c). Only a full LCA can provide the information that is needed to make an informed decision about the highest and best use for certain materials and the potential impacts these proposals will have on local governments and businesses as well as our environment and our natural resources.

In regard to "Moving Organics Out of the Landfill," the Task Force would be supportive of the proposal providing (1) the term "Organic" is defined, (2) sufficient infrastructure capacity would be made available statewide to manage the defined "organics" materials, and (3) the State would offer incentive programs that would encourage investment in production of renewable energy products from post-diverted solid waste residuals.

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, the waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

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Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or 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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Enc.

cc: Mary Nichols, Chair, California Air Resources Board
CalRecycle (Howard Levinson and Scott Smithline)
League of California Cities
California State Association of Counties
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Each City Mayor/Manager in the County of Los Angeles
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Counsel of Governments
Southern California Association of Governments
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Each Member of the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee
Each Member of the Facility Plan Review Subcommittee



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April 11, 2013

Ms. Caroll Mortensen, Director
Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
1001 I Street
PO Box 4025
Sacramento, CA 95812-4025

Dear Ms. Mortensen:

AB 341 (2011): 75% DIVERSION GOAL - CALRECYCLE REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force), I would like to request the opportunity for public input on the AB 341 Report to the Legislature (Report) prior to the report being submitted.

Assembly Bill 341 (Chapter 476 of the State Statute of 2011) requires CalRecycle to submit a report to the legislature by January 1, 2014, detailing how the State will achieve a goal of reducing the amount of waste disposed by at least 75% through source reduction, recycling, and composting. On May 9, 2012, CalRecycle released the draft Report that suggested monumental structural and legislative changes to the way solid waste has been managed in California for the last several decades. The Task Force reviewed and submitted detailed comments on that draft Report on May 30, 2012, a copy enclosed.

Since the original release of the draft Report, stakeholders from the public and private sectors, including the Task Force, have submitted numerous comments in writing and in person at CalRecycle-sponsored workshops related to the draft Report and its various elements. While the Task Force has been encouraged by your past comments that the draft Report was a conversation starter, we have yet to receive any formal responses to our comments, and have yet to see a revised version of the draft Report. As such, it is unclear what, if any, stakeholder feedback CalRecycle has incorporated in the recommendations that will ultimately be submitted to the Legislature. We have also recently heard assertions by representatives of your agency that the Report may not be released to the public for review or comments prior to being submitted to the Legislature. Given the scope and magnitude of the changes being proposed, in addition to the diverse array of feedback received to date on the various proposals, it is crucial to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to review and provide comments on the final draft of the Report prior to it being submitted to the Legislature for further action.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 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-

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We would appreciate a written response stating whether or not a review of the Report will be available for public comment prior to submittal to the Legislature. Should you or a member of your staff have any question regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or (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

Enc.

cc:

Matt Rodriguez, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency
Martha Aceves-Guzman, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Brown
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
San Fernando Valley Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
Westside Cities Council of Governments
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
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