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CHAIRMAN

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SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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September 23, 2009

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of the State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

**SENATE BILL 14 AND ASSEMBLY BILL 64 (ENROLLED SEPTEMBER 11, 2009)
RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) requests that you **veto** Senate Bill 14 (SB 14) and Assembly Bill 64 (AB 64). These bills, if enacted, would increase the use of renewable electricity requirements to 33 percent by the year 2020, but preclude a conversion technology facility that converts municipal solid waste (MSW) into energy from the definition of 'renewable electrical generation facility'. The bills would also significantly restrict development of conversion technology facilities using MSW as feedstock in California.

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 its 88 cities in Los Angeles County with a combined population in excess of 10 million. Consistent with these responsibilities, and to ensure a coordinated and 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.

SB 14, and enabling bill AB 64, preclude the conversion technologies from being classified as a renewable energy generating facility by defining 'municipal solid waste conversion' as a noncombustion thermal process that among other things, does not use air or oxygen, except ambient air to maintain temperature control, produces no discharges of air emissions, and the technology produces no discharges to surface or groundwater. This definition of 'municipal solid waste conversion' prevents conversion technologies that have

the capability of converting post recycled residual waste into useful products, green fuels, and clean renewable energy as some conversion technology facilities would require additional oxygen and/or produce water.

The Task Force applauds your efforts to seek approaches to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the creation and use of renewable energy sources and shares a similar vision. For this reason, the Task Force has and continues to support Assembly Bill 222, authored by Assembly Members Adams and MA. This bill, if enacted, would correct scientifically inaccurate definitions which have hampered the development of conversion technologies within the State. Conversion technologies can help California simultaneously address a number of its most vital environmental goals, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions (AB 32); recovering biomass resources for beneficial use (Bioenergy Action Plan); producing renewable fuels within the State (AB 118/Low Carbon Fuel Standard); and producing local, baseload renewable energy that is accessible without the need for large transmission lines (Renewable Portfolio Standard). However, existing law and regulations in California have effectively stifled the development of conversion technologies, which SB 14 and AB 64, if enacted, would re-codify into the new Renewable Portfolio Standard. Therefore, the Task Force fully supports your announcement to veto SB 14 and AB 64, and requests you direct the California Air Resources Board review AB 222 as a model in implementing your September 15, 2009 executive order establishing a Statewide 33 percent Renewable Portfolio Standard.

In February 2008, California Air Resources Board's Economic and Technology Advancement Advisory Committee (ETAAC) released its report entitled "*Technologies and Policies to Consider for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions in California*". The ETAAC Report noted that by conservative estimates, conversion technologies have the potential to reduce annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by approximately five million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent in California. In fact, the Task Force estimates the potential GHG reduction of conversion technologies may be three times greater, since conversion technologies have a simultaneous triple benefit to the environment: (1) reduction of transportation emissions resulting from long distance shipping of waste; (2) elimination of methane production from waste that would otherwise be landfilled; and (3) displacement of the use of fossil fuels by net energy (fuel and electricity) produced by conversion technologies.

Reports completed on behalf of the California Integrated Waste Management Board, in concert with the Universities of California at Davis and Riverside, affirmed that conversion technologies offer a superior alternative to landfilling and incineration of solid waste, offering a number of substantial benefits with regards to renewable energy production, resource conservation, and pollution reduction. The reports also reaffirmed that developing conversion technology facilities in California will complement and even enhance our recycling industry, and lessen our dependence on landfilling, all while complying with strict environmental standards. Conversion technologies would provide the most opportunistic approach to implementing the goals found in your executive order.

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Therefore, the Task Force requests that you **veto** SB 14 and SB 64, and seek the advancement of technologies in California that have the potential to create green fuels and renewable energy from the processing of post-recycled residual solid waste while reducing GHG emissions. We stand ready to assist your office and the Air Resources Board in helping the people of California achieve a greener, less polluted environment. 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
Mayor, City of Rosemead

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cc: Senate President Pro Temp Darrell Steinberg
Assembly Speaker Karen Bass
Senator Dennis Hollingsworth, Minority Leader
Assembly Member Sam Blakeslee, Minority Leader
Cynthia Bryant, Office of Planning and Research
Each Member of the California Air Resources Board
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
Each Member of the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County