



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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GAIL FARBER, CHAIR
MARGARET CLARK, VICE-CHAIR

September 24, 2012

The Honorable County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**SUPPORT FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY MOTION
ITEM NO. 4, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' SEPTEMBER 25, 2012, AGENDA**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) would like to encourage your support for Supervisor Knabe's motion to be voted on September 25, 2012, to promote the development of conversion technologies in the County of Los Angeles and attempt to address the legislative challenges conversion technologies currently face in California.

Your Board has a long history of support for conversion technologies dating back to 1999 when our Task Force submitted recommendations for pursuing alternatives to landfills. Since that time, your support has included sponsorship of state legislation, approving funding mechanisms for a conversion technology program through landfill conditional use permits, approving contracts with consultants to identify and evaluate technologies and sites, and awarding a public outreach contract.

Through your leadership, the Department of Public Works (Public Works) has implemented a successful Countywide program providing numerous technical and outreach resources to stakeholders and decision-makers. Together with our Task Force, Public Works established the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee. This advisory body has worked to evaluate technologies and sites in the County where potential projects could be located.

Despite efforts by our Task Force, the County, and other jurisdictions in California, project development in the State has been less than robust over the past 13 years primarily due to the inconsistent and inaccurate definitions in State statute. In order for investors and project developers to have confidence in pursuing projects in the State, changes need to be made to statute that would create a clear permitting pathway.

We encourage other jurisdictions in the County of Los Angeles to follow your lead in taking a position to actively pursue and support the passage of State and Federal legislation and regulations that would establish a clear pathway to encourage the

development of conversion technologies including clarification of the definition of conversion technologies and ensuring they qualify for appropriate incentives for producing renewable energy, reducing landfill disposal, and producing low carbon fuels.

We believe the environmental and economic merits of conversion technologies make these innovative landfill alternatives a potentially viable component of our solid waste and recycling infrastructure in the County.

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-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.

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
Council Member, City of Rosemead

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cc: Each City Mayor in the County of Los Angeles
Mr. Cliff Rechtschaffen, Special Advisor to Governor Edmond G. Brown
Ms. Caroll Mortensen, Director of CalRecycle
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Task Force
Each Member of the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee