



**GAIL FARBER
CHAIR**

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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July 7, 2009

Ms. Margo Reid Brown, Chair
California Integrated Waste Management Board
Cal-EPA Building
1001 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95812-4025

Dear Chairperson Brown:

**COMMENTS REGARDING JUNE 16, 2009, AGENDA ITEM 11 REGARDING
"CONSIDERATION OF REVISIONS TO THE CIWMB STRATEGIC DIRECTIVES TO
ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE"**

On June 16, 2009, the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) adopted the subject item as a part of its consent action. At that meeting, Mr. Mike Mohajer on behalf of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) addressed your Board briefly and due to the time constraint, the Board agreed to receive written comments from the Task Force on the subject item for its further consideration.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer the comments on the subject item, and commend the Waste Board on its efforts to revise its Strategic Directives to specifically address climate change. The new Strategic Directive is designated as "Recycling-Waste Management and Climate Change." The following represents our comments in response to tasks intended to be developed and implemented as a part of the new Strategic Directive:

1. *Task 2 – Implement the seven waste and recycling recommendations identified in the AB 32 Scoping Plan in an effort to achieve a minimum reduction of 10 million metric tons of carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions by the year 2020.*
 - *Task 2.a – "Promulgate a rule making for a mandatory Commercial Recycling Scoping Plan measure by December 31, 2010, and link this effort with the CIWMB's efforts to support local government and business diversion and climate change programs"*

The Task Force is a strong supporter of recycling as an essential part of our integrated solid waste management system, but we are opposed to the imposition of mandatory commercial recycling in California. A complete economic and environmental life-cycle analysis conducted by the State is needed to accurately measure the net impact in GHG emissions that result from recycling activities, since the bulk of our recyclables are shipped to China and other parts of the world where environmental laws and regulations, when compared to California regulations, may be considered weak or non-existent. Furthermore, there is a great need for development of in-State markets for use of recovered materials. As recently experienced, a lot of our collected recyclables had to be stored in warehouses and/or had to be disposed in landfills due to economical down turn in China and other parts of the world which further substantiates the need for in-State markets. Mandatory commercial recycling would also add another substantial financial burden to local governments, who would be required to implement and enforce local ordinances.

- *Task 2.c – Obtain legislative authority by January 1, 2010, to implement the Extended Producer Responsibility Framework.*
- Would the January 1, 2010, date need to be adjusted, since Assembly Bill 283 is now a two-year bill?
- *Task 2.g – Advise on the development of the Local Community Protocols to ensure that recycling and waste management activities are incorporated in the inventory protocol for community operations.*

We would like to see a provision for conversion technologies in the Protocols and recognition of the benefits including net greenhouse gas emission reduction.

- *Task 2.h – Obtain legislative authority by January 1, 2010, to increase Integrated Waste Management Account (IWMA) funds and allow grants from IWMA to support development and expansion of the program infrastructure needed to divert materials to their highest and best use and to develop California sources of energy and biofuels.*

The Task Force recommends the inclusion of conversion technologies in the expansion of the program infrastructure. Numerous studies, including those conducted by the State of California, have confirmed that conversion technologies provide triple benefits with regard to GHG

emissions reductions, including reducing waste transportation, reducing landfill disposal, and displacing fossil fuels by producing fuel and energy.

2. *Task 3 – Foster the development of alternative energy and biofuels derived from waste materials after high-value recyclables have been removed, and continuing to play an active role in the Bioenergy Interagency Working Group.*

We would appreciate the Waste Board's clarification of the word "foster" and what level of support the CIWMB will be providing to technologies that convert residual solid waste into energy and biofuels. Additionally, we appreciate the Waste Board's long-standing participation in our Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee, and in recognition of this productive partnership, recommend Task 3 be rephrased to state, "Foster the development of alternative energy and biofuels derived from waste materials after high-value recyclables have been removed, and continuing to play an active role in the Bioenergy Interagency Working Group and the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force."

Finally, the Task Force would like to comment on Strategic Directive 6.1, which requires the State to reduce the amount of organics in the waste stream by 50 percent by 2020. As stated in previous letters, the terms "organic" and "compostable organic" materials need to be clearly defined to avoid confusion among the legislature and regulatory bodies, regulated communities, and local governments that ultimately have to bear the cost. In response, on August 28, 2008, the Waste Board advised that "the Board broadly interpreted "organics" as all carbon-based materials" (approximately 70 percent of the waste stream) and "compostable organics as a subset" of the carbon-based organics amounting to roughly 25 percent of waste stream. As such, we respectfully request that Strategic Directive 6.1 be revised to include the said definitions.

While we appreciate the efforts the Waste Board has taken to manage the compostable subset of the waste stream through its composting and anaerobic digestion programs, we would like to see more focus by the Waste Board on conversion technologies that have the capability of managing the entire organic component of the wastestream. The conversion technologies analyzed by the Task Force in concert with the County of Los Angeles are robust enough to manage a heterogeneous carbon-based waste stream, achieving a high diversion rate of 85 to 100 percent. At the same time they are capable of producing renewable energy, biofuels, and other useful products.

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

Ms. Margo Reid Brown
July 7, 2009
Page 4

for the County of Los Angeles (County) 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 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 Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the City of Los Angeles, the waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

The Task Force looks forward to the opportunity to work with the CIWMB to ensure an environmentally and economically viable integrated waste management system that is protective of our citizens' health and safety as well as our natural resources and the environment. 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

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cc: Each Member of the California Integrated Waste Management Board
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles' Board of Supervisors
California State Association of Counties
The League of California Cities
The League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division
Each City Mayor in Los Angeles County
Southern California Association of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
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 and Plan Review Subcommittee