



GAIL FARBER
CHAIR

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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May 5, 2010

The Honorable S. Joseph Simitian
State Capitol Room 2080
Sacramento, CA 94248-0001

Dear Senator Simitian:

SENATE BILL 722 (AMENDED MARCH 4, 2010)

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **opposes unless amended** Senate Bill 722 (SB 722), which would increase the amount of electricity generated per year from eligible renewable energy resources to at least 20 percent of the total electricity sold to retail customers in California per year by December 31, 2013, and 33 percent by December 31, 2020. However, the bill would reinforce current inaccuracies in State law that discourages the development of conversion technologies in the State. In addition, the bill would appear to eliminate provisions for renewable energy credit for future projects utilizing landfill gas to energy.

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 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 County-wide 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.

While the Task Force supports this legislation's goals of increasing the amount of renewable energy utilized in the State, we are very concerned that SB 722 would perpetuate a scientifically inaccurate definition, which has severely hampered the development of conversion technologies in the State. Conversion technologies are processes capable of converting post-recycled residual solid waste into useful products, green fuels, and clean renewable energy. Current California statutes impose impractical restrictions on conversion technologies such as requiring zero air emissions,

a standard required of no other energy generation technology or manufacturing process in the State and that effectively precludes conversion technologies from qualifying for the State's renewable energy portfolio. This has been raised by the California Air Resources Board, California Energy Commission, and California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery in their recent joint letter in support of Assembly Bill 222 (AB 222) (copy enclosed), which is authored by Assembly Members Adams and Ma and supported by the Task Force and numerous jurisdictions in California.

AB 222, if enacted, would correct the scientifically inaccurate definitions, which have hampered the development of conversion technologies within the State, and ensure a regulatory pathway for conversion technology projects consistent with the provisions of the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, H.R. 2454, authored by Congressmen Henry Waxman and Ed Markey. Numerous California municipalities are considering conversion technologies to reduce their dependence on landfilling, create green collar jobs, and provide a way for us to shift to more sustainable solid waste management practices.

Additionally, the language defining "renewable electrical generation facility" needs further clarification to ensure eligibility of present and future landfill gas-to-energy projects for renewable energy credit. Landfill gas is a threat to human health and contributes to global warming. Combusting landfill gas to generate electricity and other renewable energy also serves to mitigate its public health and environmental impacts by destroying the majority of hazardous air pollutants in landfill gas. Furthermore, using landfill gas to produce electricity avoids the need to generate electricity at traditional power plants and thus displaces the air pollution and carbon emissions from these plants. As such, the Task Force opposes the provisions of SB 722 that would remove renewable energy credits to future landfill gas-to-energy projects.

If California hopes to successfully attract investment in green technologies and meet significantly higher goals for the production of in-State renewable energy, it is absolutely vital to expand the list of eligible renewable energy options. Instead, SB 722 would remove a viable option from consideration that would have the effect of encouraging additional flaring of landfill gas, while perpetuating scientifically inaccurate definitions in State law that deter the development of cutting-edge conversion technology facilities that would produce renewable energy from unrecoverable solid waste biomass. Therefore, the Task Force **opposes SB 722, unless amended** to address the concerns above.

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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

MS/CS:ts

Enc.

cc: Senate Pro Tem Steinberg
Senator Kehoe
Assembly Members Adams and Ma
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
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 Ninth Street Sacramento, California 95814
Main website: www.energy.ca.gov

**AIR RESOURCES BOARD**

1001 I Street Sacramento, California 95814
Main website: www.arb.ca.gov

**DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES RECYCLING
AND RECOVERY**

801 K Street, Sacramento, California 95814
Main website: 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.

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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