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MARGARET CLARK, VICE CHAIR

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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March 3, 2011

The Honorable Felipe Fuentes
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0039

Dear Assembly Member Fuentes:

SENATE BILL X1-2 (FORMERLY SENATE BILL 23) ENERGY: RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES PROGRAM, INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 1, 2011

The Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) is fully supportive of efforts by the State of California to increase the production and utilization of renewable energy; however, **we are opposed to Senate Bill X1-2 (SBX2) in its current form.**

In its current form, SBX2 perpetuates the current language in statute that restricts municipal solid waste (MSW) conversion technology facilities from receiving renewable energy credit under the State's Renewable Portfolio Standard, regardless of whether such a facility (a) meets all federal, state, regional and local laws and regulations, and (b) uses only post-recycled solid waste residuals. Conversion technologies are advanced processes that convert post-recycled residual solid waste into useful products, green fuels, and clean, renewable energy. Conversion technologies may be thermal, chemical, or biological but are not incinerators as there is no combustion of the waste. The Task Force is a consistent supporter of MSW conversion technologies as a way to both manage the post-recycled solid waste residuals in an environmentally preferred manner and generate renewable energy and biofuels.

Unfortunately, the State of California has yet to establish a statutory definition for these new technologies that acknowledges their environmental benefits. To date, the scientifically inaccurate definitions of *municipal solid waste conversion* in the Public Resources Code, Section 25741 (subsection (b) 3), and *gasification* in the Public Resources Code, Section 40117, have detrimentally affected the development of these innovative technologies in California. At a time when California is facing record budget deficits and unemployment rates, the development of these technologies could

potentially infuse billions of dollars of economic investment in our renewable energy infrastructure and create countless green-collar jobs.

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 by the County and the 88 cities in the County of Los Angeles. Consistent with these responsibilities and to ensure a coordinated and cost-effective solid waste management system in the County of Los Angeles, the Task Force also addresses issues impacting the solid waste management 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.

We would appreciate it if the appropriate staff would follow up with Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147 or MikeMohajer@yahoo.com regarding this matter. Creating a regulatory pathway for conversion technologies to be developed in California will assist us in meeting our State's Renewable Portfolio Standard goals, create jobs, and provide opportunities for communities to manage their waste in a more sustainable way.

Sincerely,



Margaret Clark, Vice-Chair
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Council Member, City of Rosemead

TM/CS:

cc: Governor Jerry Brown
Senate President Pro Tempore Darrel Steinberg
Senator Joe Simitian
Senator Chistine Kehoe
Assembly Speaker John A. Perez
Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore Fiona Ma
Each Member of the Assembly Appropriations Committee
James Boyd, Commissioner, California Energy Commission
Mary Nichols, Chair, Air Resources Board
Mark Leary, Acting Director, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Ronald L. Litzinger, Southern California Edison
Thomas E. Bottorff, Pacific Gas & Electric
Dan Skopec, Southern California Gas Company
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Each Member of the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee