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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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June 27, 2011

Mr. Barry Wallerstein, Executive Director
South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4182

Dear Mr. Wallerstein:

**SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
PROPOSED ENERGY POLICY**

The Los Angeles Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) would like to express our interest in providing additional feedback regarding the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) proposed Energy Policy. Air quality considerations are critical in Los Angeles County, and protecting public health and safety is of paramount importance. The management of solid waste and recyclable materials has the potential to significantly impact air quality within the SCAQMD basin, and we are grateful that Mr. Jay Chen has served as a member of the Task Force representing your agency for many years providing valuable insight regarding air quality issues to our deliberations.

Each year County of Los Angeles residents and businesses dispose of nearly 10 million tons of solid waste in local landfills. In an effort to reduce greenhouse gases and other emissions associated with the collection, transportation, and disposal of this residual waste, the Task Force and other jurisdictions such as the County of Los Angeles (County) are evaluating solid waste conversion technologies as a way to manage waste in a more environmentally sound way. Conversion technologies are non-combustion thermal, chemical, mechanical, and biological processes that are capable of converting post-recycled residual solid waste into useful products and chemicals, green fuels like ethanol and biodiesel, and clean renewable energy.

We appreciate SCAQMD acknowledging the importance of diversifying electrical generation technologies within the basin as a way to provide reliable, affordable, clean, and sustainable local electricity supply. However, we are concerned that requiring zero or near-zero emission standards of these technologies could have unintended negative impacts on the growth of the solid waste conversion technology industry in the County and the South Coast Air Basin. We would appreciate the opportunity to work with you in vetting the Energy Policy in order to ensure public health and safety is protected and at the same time promote the growth of our local clean energy sector.

Mr. Barry Wallerstein

June 27, 2011

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It is our understanding that at the stationary source monthly meeting on June 17, 2011, you indicated that SCAQMD staff would provide additional opportunities for public participation in examining the Energy Policy prior to adoption. The Task Force would like to participate in this public process given our role in reviewing new and existing solid waste facilities in Los Angeles County and promoting the development of new conversion technologies.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939 [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 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.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the proposed SCAQMD Energy Policy in more detail and provide comments for your consideration. We also appreciate Mr. Steve Smith's willingness to participate in our June 16, 2011, monthly meeting to answer questions and provide insight on the draft Energy Policy. We look forward to working more closely with SCAQMD on this issue. Please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147 to discuss how the Task Force can assist with the development of the Energy Policy.

Sincerely,



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

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cc:

Mr. Steve Smith, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Each member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Each Member of the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee