



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
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[www.lacountyiswmf.org](http://www.lacountyiswmf.org)

DONALD L. WOLFE  
CHAIRMAN

September 20, 2005

Ms. Rosario Marin, Chair  
California Integrated Waste Management Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairperson Marin:

## **CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY EVALUATION REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force, I am pleased to enclose the Executive Summary of the Conversion Technology Evaluation Report approved by the Task Force on August 18, 2005. This Report represents a culmination of 18 months of research and analysis by the Task Force's Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee (Subcommittee), in conjunction with URS Corporation under contract with the County of Los Angeles. The Subcommittee consists of experts selected from around the State with special knowledge and interest in this field, including a representative of the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

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 its 88 cities in Los Angeles County. Consistent with these responsibilities, and to ensure a coordinated and cost-effective 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.

The Report assesses the feasibility of developing a conversion technology demonstration facility in Southern California and lays out a plan for further analysis and actions needed for the development of such facilities. Conversion technology refers to a wide array of state of the art technologies capable of converting the post-recycled residual portion of solid waste stream into useful products, green fuels and electricity.

Briefly, the Report reached the following findings and conclusions:

1. Conversion technologies will increase diversion from landfills and enhance Southern California's solid waste management and recycling programs.
2. The technologies evaluated are environmentally and technically capable of processing post-recycled solid waste residue.
3. Available data from Japan and Europe indicate that conversion facilities utilizing environmental control systems would be able to meet the regulatory requirements of California.
4. Conversion technologies have been in successful, long-term use around the world, and while technical challenges are expected, these challenges are judged to be manageable.
5. Economically, these technologies have the ability to compete favorably with other solid waste management methods on a commercial scale.

According to the latest data from the Waste Board, over 40 million tons of solid waste were disposed in California landfills in 2003, of which approximately 80 percent is organic material. This overwhelming tonnage represents a significant amount of resources, which conversion technologies can utilize for beneficial uses, including the production of energy and green fuel. At present, conversion technologies are successfully used by over 140 operating facilities in Europe and Asia to recover energy and materials from the solid waste stream. Developing a demonstration facility in Southern California would allow real-world data to be obtained on the impacts, benefits, and feasibility of these technologies, which have the potential to revolutionize solid waste management in the United States.

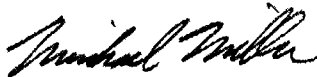
The Subcommittee focused on partnering with a materials recovery facility (MRF) in Southern California to provide post-recyclable residual solid waste as feedstock to the potential conversion technology facility. This arrangement provides a natural synergy with resulting environmental benefits which can result in a reduction in vehicular traffic. The Report identified six MRFs willing to partner with a potential technology supplier, as well as six qualified technology suppliers capable of diverting MRF residual solid waste from disposal and converting it into useful products. The next phase of this project will identify the ideal MRF location and technology supplier to facilitate the development of a demonstration facility.

We hope this Report will help increase awareness of the potential of conversion technologies as a viable alternative to traditional solid waste management and complement the Waste Board's efforts to create a cleaner, greener, and sustainable California. A complete copy of the Report is available online at [www.lacountyiswmtf.org](http://www.lacountyiswmtf.org).

Ms. Rosario Marin, Chair  
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Should you have any questions regarding this Report or wish to obtain a hard copy of the complete Report, please contact Coby Skye of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works at (626) 458-5163, Monday through Thursday 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. or Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



Michael Miller, Vice-Chair  
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/  
Integrated Waste Management Task Force and  
Councilmember, City of West Covina

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Enc.

cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Senate President Pro-Tem Don Perata  
Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez  
Chair of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee (Alan Lowenthal)  
Each Member of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Chair of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee (Loni Hancock)  
Each Member of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
Chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee (Sheila Kuehl)  
Assembly Member Barbara Matthews  
Cabinet Secretary Terry Tamminen  
Chair of the California Energy Commission (Joe Desmond)  
Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Alan C. Lloyd)  
Secretary of California Department of Food and Agriculture (A.G. Kawamura)  
Secretary of Resources (Mike Chrisman)  
Each Member of the California Integrated Waste Management Board  
Each Member of the California Air Resources Board  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County State Legislative Delegation  
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors  
Each City Mayor in Los Angeles County  
Los Angeles City Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa  
Each Member of the Los Angeles City Council  
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County  
California State Association of Counties

League of California Cities  
League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division  
Southern California Association of Governments  
Chair of the Southern California Association of Governments (Toni Young)  
Chair of the SCAG Energy and Environment Committee (Dennis Washburn)  
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments  
South Bay Cities Council of Governments  
County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
Solid Waste Superintendent of the City of Oxnard (Don A. Smith)  
First Vice-Chair Riverside County Solid Waste Management Advisory Council/Local  
Task Force (Simon Houseman)  
Chair of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors (Marion Ashley)  
Director of Legislative Affairs for the Regional Council of Rural Counties (Rich Mason)  
Chair of the Orange County Board of Supervisors (Bill Campbell)  
Manager of Environmental Affairs, California Rice Commission (Paul Butler)  
Mayor of the City of Hemet (Roger Meadows)  
Solid Waste Association of North America  
North Valley Coalition  
Californians Against Waste  
Ed Begley, Jr.  
California State Pipe Trades Council  
California State Association of Electrical Workers  
Western States Council of Sheet Metal Workers  
California State Building Trades Council  
International Union of Operating Engineers  
California Agricultural Council  
Farm Bureau Federation  
Republic Services  
University of California, Davis  
University of California, Riverside  
Conversion Technology Suppliers – Short List  
Materials Recovery Facilities – Short List  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force  
Each Member of the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee