



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
P.O. BOX 1460, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460
www.lacountyiswmtf.org

GAIL FARBER – CHAIR
MARGARET CLARK – VICE CHAIR

December 8, 2011

To: All City Mayors in Los Angeles County

Dear Mayor:

**REQUEST TO OPPOSE ASSEMBLY BILL 480 (AMENDED JUNE 23, 2011)
INSURANCE: SOLID WASTE FACILITIES**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) urges you to **oppose** Assembly Bill 480 (Solorio). The proposed bill, if enacted, would significantly weaken California's existing requirements on captive insurance (where policy holders own the insurance company, i.e. self-insured) when it is used to provide for financial assurance for a landfill's proper closure, post-closure, and corrective action. AB 480 has passed the Assembly and is currently before the Senate Environmental Quality Committee, which will be considering the proposal in January 2012.

For many years private landfill owners/operators have attempted to eliminate (or water down) existing State regulations requiring them to set aside adequate financial resources to properly close their landfills, provide long-term maintenance, and take reasonable foreseeable corrective action to prevent impacts on public health, safety, and the environment. Thanks primarily to strong local government opposition their previous efforts had been unsuccessful.

If enacted, AB 480 would change that, posing a significant financial risk to the State and local governments. It would allow an insurance carrier established by a solid waste landfill owner/operator to meet the financial assurance obligations of existing law without the carrier being licensed by the California Department of Insurance. In the event a private landfill owner/operator files for bankruptcy or walks away from its fiduciary responsibility, AB 480 would leave the cities and counties that had disposed of solid waste generated by their residents and businesses at the landfill liable for most of the cost of the landfill's closure, postclosure maintenance, corrective action, and associated environmental impacts.

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Enclosed are sample letters which you may wish to use in expressing your City's concerns on this important issue to the Chair of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee and the author of the bill.

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 10 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, 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.

Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or (909) 592-1147.

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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Enc.

cc: Each City Mayor and City Manager in the County of Los Angeles
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force