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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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September 14, 2011

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

ASSEMBLY BILL 712 (WILLIAMS) - RECYCLING: BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) has reviewed Assembly Bill 712 (AB 712) and respectively requests that you **veto** this bill. This bill would prohibit the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) from providing recycling funds to a jurisdiction that does not allow development or operation of a certified recycling center at a supermarket site. The withholding of funds collected from local municipalities, without accounting for local concerns regarding the operation of recycling centers, is an infringement of local land-use autonomy.

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 the governmental agencies.

AB 712, if enacted, would prohibit CalRecycle from providing any Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act (Bottle Bill) funds to a city, county, or city and county that disallow the development or operation of a certified recycling center at a supermarket site. This bill does not include any provisions for local conditions and circumstances that may prevent the siting of a recycling center at a supermarket, thereby infringing on local land use planning and the responsibility of local governments to protect the health, welfare, and quality of life of their residents.

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Rather than retain funds collected from local residents at the State level that are intended to encourage the collection of additional recyclable beverage containers, the State should be ramping up efforts to develop additional markets for these collected recyclable materials within the State. Additionally, the State in concert with local governments and other stakeholders should consider the establishment of minimum siting criteria for the certified recycling centers so that they do not become a nuisance or blight on the community.

While the Task Force supports the expansion of convenient recycling opportunities for consumers, we are opposed to legislation that infringes upon local land use decision-making authority. Therefore, the Task Force **respectfully requests your "nay" on AB 712**. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147 or MikeMohajer@yahoo.com.

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: Gareth Elliott, Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force