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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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August 16, 2021

The Honorable Anthony J. Portantino, Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Portantino:

**SUPPORT AND AMEND – ASSEMBLY BILL 322 (SALAS) AS AMENDED
ON JUNE 24, 2021 – ENERGY: ELECTRIC PROGRAM INVESTMENT CHARGE
PROGRAM: BIOMASS**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Assembly Bill 322 (AB 322), as amended on June 24, 2021, and recommends that it be **amended** as described below.

AB 322, if enacted, would require the California Energy Commission (CEC) to consider, in the investment planning process for the Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) program, bioenergy projects for biomass energy projects, using new and emerging technologies that maximize ratepayer and public benefits.

The Task Force is supportive of the proposed legislation as it would help improve solid waste management practices and reduce emissions of the most damaging climate and air pollutants by providing a beneficial alternative to open burning and landfilling of biomass waste. By encouraging biomass conversion projects, the bill would reduce air pollution from the direct combustion of waste biomass. AB 322 will stimulate jobs, economic development, and increased energy security in many regions of the State, both rural and urban, that generate woody biomass. However, the Task Force has concerns that the term "consider" bioenergy projects does not support these much-needed bioenergy projects as much as originally intended. The Task Force strongly recommends that the bill be amended to "**prioritize**" bioenergy projects.

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

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these responsibilities and to ensure a coordinated and 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.

Based on the foregoing, the Task Force **supports** AB 322 and recommends it be **amended** to prioritize bioenergy projects as described above. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer, a member of the Task Force, at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or at (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

PG:cd:cso

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cc: Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia
Assembly Member Quirk
Assembly Member Robert Rivas
Assembly Member Salas
Each Member and staff of the Senate Committee on Appropriations
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities – Los Angeles County Division
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Fesia A. Davenport, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Westside Cities Council of Governments
Each City Mayor and City Manager in the County of Los Angeles
Each City Recycling Coordinator in the County of Los Angeles
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force