



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

DONALD L. WOLFE
CHAIRMAN

May 17, 2007

The Honorable Jack Scott
State Capitol Room 2082
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Scott:

**SENATE BILL 842 (INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 23, 2007)
DEFINITION OF GASIFICATION**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Senate Bill 842 (SB 842), which would clarify the State's definition of "gasification".

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 with a combined population in excess of 10 million. Consistent with 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, 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.

Currently, California disposes of over 40 million tons of residual, post-recycled solid waste each year - a significant waste of resources that has grown steadily over the last decade, despite intense and successful waste reduction and recycling efforts. Throughout Europe and Asia, new conversion technologies are being implemented to better manage these wasted resources. Conversion technologies (such as gasification) are processes capable of converting residual post-recycled solid waste and other organic feedstocks into useful products, alternative fuels, and clean, renewable energy.

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By recovering energy, fuel, and products from organic waste materials, conversion technologies can significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions by not only reducing landfill disposal, but by displacing energy generation and fossil fuel consumption.

Unfortunately, California's statutes have yet to properly define conversion technologies or provide for their proper development based on their relative environmental impacts and benefits. California's "waste management hierarchy" as set in 1989's landmark Integrated Waste Management Act (AB 939) is frozen in time, failing to recognize the possibility of new technologies emerging on the horizon. Worse yet, more recent adjustments to AB 939 have incorporated technically inaccurate and physically impossible definitions and requirements into State law. The definition of "gasification" is a prime example. As currently written, State law (Public Resources Code Section 40117) states gasification is a "technology [that] does not use air or oxygen in the conversion process", and produces no "discharges of air contaminants or emissions, including greenhouse gas emissions." These provisions have put California at a competitive disadvantage in the global marketplace, and impeded the private sector from commercializing solutions to some of the most pressing waste management challenges facing California. SB 842 is a positive first step forward toward eliminating the most egregious of restrictions on conversion technology development. The Task Force is optimistic that additional changes will be made so that unnecessary restrictions placed on these advanced processes are clarified.

Therefore, the Task Force **supports** SB 842. The Task Force is knowledgeable in conversion technologies and would be pleased to provide information regarding this developing subject matter.

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If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,

Margaret Clark

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

CS:

cc: Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata
Each Member of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation
Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency
Secretary of the California Energy Commission
Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture
California Integrated Waste Management Board
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
Each City Mayor in the County of Los Angeles
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities
League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division
Southern California Association of Governments
Solid Waste Association of North America
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force