



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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DEAN EFSTATHIOU
CHAIRMAN

March 17, 2008

The Honorable Mike Davis
State Capitol Room 2160
Sacramento, CA 94249-0064

Dear Assembly Member Davis:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 2829 (INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 21, 2008)
PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING AND SOURCE REDUCTION**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Assembly Bill 2829 (AB 2829), which requires an environmental awareness statement on each plastic carryout bag describing the negative impacts littered plastic bags have on the environment and wildlife, and encourage the use of reusable bags; deletes the prohibition in the existing law on a city, county, or other public agency from imposing a plastic carryout bag fee upon a store; and declares the intent of the legislature to assess a statewide charge on plastic carryout bags, and direct the revenues raised by that charge to local governments on a per capita basis to fund litter prevention programs and source reduction programs.

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 ten 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.

Each year, approximately 19 billion plastic carryout bags are consumed in California, the equivalent of 600 bags per person per year. Less than 5 percent of those bags are

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recycled, with the remainder disposed in landfills or ending up littered on our beaches, waterways, parks and roads. Plastic bag litter makes up as much as 25 percent of the litter stream and significantly impacts our communities and the environment. In Los Angeles County alone, local and state government spends tens of millions of dollars each year on litter prevention, cleanup, and enforcement activities. Communities throughout California are grappling with this issue and are searching for ways to reduce the impact that littered bags have on their quality of life. AB 2829 helps to positively address this issue, and builds upon on the framework established by AB 2449 (2006 statutes).

The Task Force supports efforts that increases plastic bag recycling and reduces the use of single use plastic bags. The establishment of per bag fees has been found to be highly effective in reducing plastic bag usage and litter; therefore this bill would go a long way towards reducing the number of bags entering our environment. AB 2829 would also restore local control over plastic bags and provide local governments the progressive tools they need in order to successfully address this issue.

Therefore the Task Force **supports** AB 2829. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force 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

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cc: Assembly Speaker Fabián Núñez
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation
Each Member of the 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
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