



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

DEAN EFSTATHIOU
CHAIRMAN

March 17, 2008

The Honorable Kevin De Leon
State Capitol, Room 4140
Sacramento, CA 94249-0045

Dear Assembly Member De Leon:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 2866 (INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 22, 2008)
SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL FEE INCREASE
OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **opposes** Assembly Bill 2866 (AB 2866) **unless amended**. If enacted in its present form, AB 2866 would allow the California Integrated Waste Management Board (Waste Board) to increase the cap on the State's solid waste disposal fee from \$1.40 to \$2 per ton of solid waste disposed, beginning July 1, 2008.

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.

At present, the Waste Board's current annual budget of \$210 million per year is derived from a variety of State surcharges, including imposition of the \$1.40 per ton tipping fee. The Waste Board uses this revenue to fund various waste reduction and recycling programs, regulate solid waste facilities, and oversee the cleanup of abandoned solid waste sites. Collectively, residents of the 88 cities in Los Angeles County and the County unincorporated

The Honorable Kevin De Leon
March 17, 2008
Page 2

communities pay approximately 1/3 of this amount (approximately \$70 million). AB 2866, if enacted, would allow the Waste Board to raise the tipping fee from \$1.40 to \$2 per ton, potentially resulting in a financial impact on residents Countywide of approximately \$7 million per year.

Although nearly a third of the Waste Board's budget is generated from fees in Los Angeles County, the programs funded by the fee are not proportionally spent on Los Angeles County. In addition, funds collected are not being used adequately for research and development of technically, environmentally and economically sound alternatives to landfill disposal, despite a growing need to spur the development of such industries. As a result, residents of Los Angeles County do not receive their fair share of services and assistance from the Waste Board. AB 2866, if enacted in its present form, would heighten this inequitable spending allocation.

To address this issue, the Task Force respectfully requests that you amend your legislative proposal to include a provision that all additional revenues collected be redirected back to local governments in the form of per-capita recycling block grants to implement new or enhance existing waste reduction and recycling programs (such as extended producer responsibility, recycling market development, litter prevention activities, public education, development of conversion technologies to meet our disposal capacity needs, etc). This provision would ensure that the funds collected are equitably allocated. This concept is currently practiced by the State Department of Conservation (under the California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act of 1999, City/County Payment Program) which annually provides \$10.5 million to local governments on a per-capita basis to enhance beverage container recycling and litter prevention activities. This program has proven to be highly popular and effective with local governments for the reasons cited above, and we believe this provision can be accommodated since the Waste Board's current \$210 million budget is **sufficient** in size to still carry out its core roles and responsibilities.

Therefore, the Task Force **opposes unless amended** AB 2866. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147.

The Honorable Kevin De Leon
March 17, 2008
Page 3

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

VJ:kp
P:\Sec\AB 2866.doc

cc: Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation
Each Member of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles' Board of Supervisors
Each City Mayor in Los Angeles County
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
Southern California Association of Governments
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County