



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
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DONALD L. WOLFE  
CHAIRMAN

June 12, 2007

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

Dear Assembly Member De Leon:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 712 (AMENDED MAY 2, 2007)  
TIPPING FEE SURCHARGE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH STATE AIR RESOURCES  
BOARD REGULATIONS**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **opposes** Assembly Bill 712 (AB 712), which would establish a 50 cent per ton surcharge on each ton of solid waste disposed in California. The surcharge would be used to reimburse operators of off-road solid waste and recycling vehicles to comply with California Air Resources Board regulations.

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.

Assembly Bill 712, if enacted, would establish a 50 cent per ton surcharge on each ton of solid waste disposed in California, generating between \$22-25 million annually. This generated revenue would be deposited in an account controlled by the State. The funds would be distributed to the solid waste and recycling industries to defray their costs for complying with regulations developed by the State Air Resources Board (ARB), which are designed to reduce particulate matter and criteria air pollutant emissions from off-road vehicles. Additionally, up to a maximum of \$4 million of the fund could be used annually by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) to provide grants for a specific list of solid waste related projects.

The Task Force strongly supports reducing particulate matter and other air pollutant emissions from off-road diesel vehicles. However, we are concerned AB 712 would create a bad precedent by allowing the State to impose solid waste disposal fees that selectively reimburses certain private or public entities for compliance with ARB regulations. More distressing is that funding would be used to relieve responsibility from operators of off-road diesel vehicles for compliance with State regulations. This responsibility has been and should continue to be born by any operator/firm as a function of doing business in California.

Additionally, AB 712 allocates a portion of the generated revenue to the CIWMB for grants promoting specific projects that "divert organic materials from disposal in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfills"; however, this bill fails to recognize the potential of thermal technologies. The Task Force has been actively investigating conversion technologies, including thermal technologies, and our findings have shown that these technologies have the capability to divert organic materials from landfill disposal, produce alternative fuels and renewable energy, and reduce greenhouse gases and other criteria air pollutant emissions.

The Task Force and our member agencies have been at the forefront of taking action to comply with ARB requirements and to reduce particulate matter emissions while actively promoting alternatives to landfill disposal. However, the provisions of AB 712 create a number of adverse precedents that would undermine the future of these goals. Therefore

The Honorable Kevin De Leon  
June 12, 2007  
Page 3

the Task Force **opposes** AB 712. 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/VJ:cw  
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cc: Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez  
Each Member of the Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation  
California Integrated Waste Management Board  
California Air Resources Board  
California Energy Commission  
California Department of Food and Agriculture  
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