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SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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July 6, 2006

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

SUPPORT FOR CONVERSION TECHNOLOGIES IN THE BIOENERGY ACTION PLAN

Pursuant to your direction, the Bioenergy Interagency Working Group (Working Group) recently forwarded you a report entitled "Recommendations For A Bioenergy Plan For California," to increase the generation of renewable energy through the use of biomass. The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) appreciates the Working Group's efforts in developing the comprehensive Report and your leadership in spurring the development of renewable energy. We would also like to express our support for the Report's recommendations regarding conversion technologies, and respectfully request your office implement those recommendations in order to spur economic development, derive energy benefits, and protect the environment.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 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 an overall population in excess of 10 million. Consistent with these responsibilities and to ensure a coordinated and cost-effective 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.

Currently, California disposes over 40 million tons of residual, post-recycled solid waste each year – a significant waste of resources that has been growing steadily over the last decade despite intense and successful waste reduction and recycling efforts. The Report recognizes that residual post-recycled solid waste is a significant part of the biomass spectrum, which unlike other biomass resources, has a well-developed collection and processing infrastructure.

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Conversion technologies are processes capable of converting residual post-recycled municipal solid waste and other organic feedstocks into useful products, alternative fuels, and clean, renewable energy. Conversion technologies, already popular in Europe and Japan, would not only reduce our dependence on landfills but also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants, reduce dependence on foreign oil, and create local, sustainable "green collar" jobs. In this era of high fuel costs, energy disruptions, air quality concerns, and economic uncertainty, California needs conversion technologies more than ever.

Specifically, the Task Force supports the Report's recommendations related to conversion technologies as summarized below.

1. Support legislation that would develop a clear regulatory framework for conversion technology facilities, which clearly distinguishes them from disposal.
2. Revise the statutory definition of transformation and provide a new definition for conversion technology.
3. Establish funding mechanisms for bioenergy programs.
4. Establish financial incentives to encourage investment and support innovation in bioenergy technology.
5. Provide diversion credit and renewable energy credit for solid waste processed via conversion technologies.

These recommendations complement your office's biomass utilization, renewable energy, and climate action policies. By enhancing state agency coordination for bioenergy products and accelerating California's existing research, development, and demonstration programs, we can utilize California's biomass resources to enhance the environment and the quality of life of our residents. If you have any questions, please contact me at (626) 569-2100 or your staff may 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

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cc: Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata
Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez
Each Member of the Senate Environmental Quality
Each Member of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Each Member of the Assembly Agricultural Committee
Each Member of the Los Angeles County State Legislative Delegation
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Federal Legislative Delegation
Special Assistant to the Governor for Energy and Environmental Technologies
(Terry Tamminen)
Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Linda S. Adams)
California's Undersecretary for Energy Affairs (Joe Desmond)
Secretary of California Department of Food and Agriculture (A.G. Kawamura)
Each Member of the California Integrated Waste Management Board
Each Member of the California Energy Commission
The California Energy Commission (Susan Brown)
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
Each City Mayor in the County of Los Angeles
Federal Office of Science and Technology Policy
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
Solid Waste Association of North America
Each Member of the City of Los Angeles' Ad Hoc RENEW LA Committee
County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
University of California, Riverside
University of California, Davis
Biomass Coordinating Council/American Council on Renewable Energy
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force