



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

January 8, 2008

The Honorable Paul Cook
State Capitol, Room 5164
Sacramento, CA 94249-0065

Dear Assembly Member Cook:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 1075 (AMENDED MARCH 28, 2007)
REDEFINITION OF GASIFICATION**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Assembly Bill 1075 (AB 1075), which is scheduled to be considered by the Assembly Natural Resources Committee on January 14, 2008. Among other things, this bill would revise the definition of "gasification" to require that the technology produce a net reduction in the discharges of air contaminants, rather than the tenuous requirement of having no discharges of air contaminants or emissions.

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.

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Conversion technologies, which include gasification technologies, are state-of-the-art processes that have the ability to convert post-recycled residual waste and turn it into marketable products, biofuels, and renewable energy. Currently, there are approximately 140 operating conversion technology facilities in Europe and Japan, which have been used to stretch limited landfill capacity, reduce greenhouse gases, and generate valuable products, electricity, and fuel.

Current statutes are significantly obstructive to the development of conversion technologies. For example, California law requires gasification technologies to meet a number of severe restrictions, including a requirement that these technologies produce no discharges of air contaminants or emissions. AB 1075, if adopted, would make this requirement more scientifically rational, instead requiring a net reduction in the discharges of air contaminants, while continuing to be protective of the public's health and safety. While this bill is a step forward, we hope you will amend the bill to address additional challenges faced by these much needed technologies. We would be happy to meet with your office to provide you additional information regarding conversion technologies and the obstacles they face due to current State law.

Therefore, the Task Force **supports** AB 1075. 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

VJ/CS:kp

cc: Each Member of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation
California State Association of Counties
The League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles' Board of Supervisors
Each City Mayor in Los Angeles County
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 Member of the Los Angeles County Alternative
Technology Advisory Subcommittee