



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
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[www.lacountyiswmtf.org](http://www.lacountyiswmtf.org)**

**DONALD L. WOLFE  
CHAIRMAN**

April 26, 2007

San Gabriel Valley Tribune, Editor  
1210 North Azusa Canyon Road  
West Covina, CA 91790

Dear Editor:

**RESPONSE TO APRIL 11, 2007 EDITORIAL REGARDING EMERGING  
TECHNOLOGIES AND ETHANOL PRODUCTION**

In response to your editorial entitled, "Ethanol Efforts Worth The Pitfalls," dated April 11, 2007 (copy enclosed), the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force agrees with your opinion that a paradigm shift is necessary to get America off our addiction to oil. We believe improving energy efficiency and developing emerging technologies can play a critical role in this shift, and your readers may be happy to know that Los Angeles County has strongly encouraged the development of these much-needed emerging technologies throughout the past decade.

California faces not only an energy crisis, but a waste disposal crisis as a result of dwindling landfill space. According to the latest report by the California Integrated Waste Management Board, approximately 52% of waste generated by residents and businesses is recycled (approx. 41 million tons) with the remaining portion (over 40 million tons) disposed of in landfills. In 2005 alone, two-thirds of waste disposed in California landfills (excluding "green waste" used for landfill daily cover) consisted of organic matter. Fortunately, new technologies, like conversion technologies, can use organic waste that is currently landfilled to reduce our dependence on landfill facilities, while also alleviating a portion of our energy needs.

Conversion technologies take post-recycled residual waste that would otherwise go to landfills, and produces ethanol, biodiesel and a host of other green fuels. Already successfully operating in Europe and Asia for over a decade, conversion technologies can relieve pressure on corn and other food crops to meet our renewable fuel needs,

while managing our waste and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We strongly believe the California Legislature can play a major role in the development of conversion facilities by removing some of the existing legislative constraints which hinder their progress.

In the interim, the Task Force has been evaluating and promoting the development of these technologies. Your readers can learn more about the Los Angeles County's conversion technology efforts, including our ongoing effort to develop a demonstration project in Southern California, at our website, [www.SoCalConversion.org](http://www.SoCalConversion.org).

Solid waste management in California is at a crossroads. The challenges we face presents new opportunities to improve the way we do things. The Task Force looks forward to continuing to work with the community and stakeholders as we collectively address the many complicated environmental issues affecting Los Angeles County and our State.

The Task Force coordinates the development of all major solid waste planning documents prepared by the County and the 88 cities in Los Angeles County. It ensures a coordinated, cost-effective solid waste management system and addresses issues impacting this system on a countywide or regional basis.

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: Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors  
Each City Mayor in the County of Los Angeles  
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments  
South Bay Cities Council of Governments  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force  
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County