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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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May 23, 2013

The Honorable Mike Gatto, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
1020 N Street, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Gatto,

**ASSEMBLY BILL 1126 (AMENDED MAY 8, 2013) -- OPPOSE
SOLID WASTE: BIOMASS CONVERSION: MSW CONVERSION**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **opposes** Assembly Bill 1126 (AB 1126) as amended on May 8, 2013. If enacted, AB 1126, among other things, would (1) eliminate any diversion credit for the amount of solid waste diverted from disposal through source reduction measures, and (2) define the terms "MSW Conversion" and "Municipal solid waste conversion facility." These facilities would be categorized as disposal facilities and subject to the requirements of disposal facilities in the Countywide Siting Element.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939 (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 the 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, 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.

The Task Force has long been a strong supporter of the development of MSW conversion technologies in California as a way to reduce dependence on landfills, generate energy, and produce fuels. Conversion technologies are an array of innovative non-combustion thermal, chemical, mechanical, and/or biological processes capable of converting post-recycled residual solid waste into useful products and chemicals, green fuels and clean renewable energy.

Unfortunately, the Task Force must oppose AB 1126 for the following reasons:

- The bill categorizes MSW conversion as disposal and subject to disposal facility requirements of the Countywide Siting Element.
- The bill eliminates diversion credit for the amount of solid waste diverted from disposal facilities through source reduction measures. This would negatively impact the established jurisdictional base-year disposal rates furthering financial impacts on cities and counties.
- The bill fails to explicitly differentiate between combustion and non-combustion processes in the term “MSW conversion” and “Municipal solid waste conversion facility.”
- The bill sets an arbitrary processing limit of 500 tons per day for a conversion facility.
- The bill contains a number of provisions, such as requiring an efficient “burn rate” and specifying the waste to be processed must contain less than 25 percent moisture and less than 10 percent noncombustible waste, that are clearly exclusive to combustion technologies, at the expense of non-combustion technologies.

Instead of addressing current barriers in statute by establishing a permitting pathway for MSW conversion facilities, this bill sets capricious standards that make facility development even more challenging than it currently is.

Therefore, the Task Force **opposes** AB 1126 as amended on May 8, 2013. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or (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

cc: Assemblyman Richard Gordon
Each Member of the Assembly Appropriations Committee
Each member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
San Fernando Valley Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
Westside Cities Council of Governments

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Each City Mayor and City Manager in the County of Los Angeles

Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County

Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force