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LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
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July 31, 2013

TO: All City Mayors in Los Angeles County

Dear Mayor:

**URGENT REQUEST FOR LETTER OF OPPOSITION FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 1126  
(AMENDED JUNE 19, 2013) – MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE CONVERSION**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) is writing to share our concern regarding the potential consequences your jurisdiction may face if Assembly Bill 1126 (AB 1126), as amended on June 19, 2013, is passed. We urge you to send a letter of **opposition** to the Legislature regarding the proposed legislation and have attached a sample opposition letter for your convenience.

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, 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 Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) conversion technologies in California as a way to manage post-recycled residual solid waste, reduce dependence on landfills, generate energy, and produce fuels. 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.

If enacted, AB 1126 would (1) potentially eliminate any diversion credit for the amount of solid waste diverted from disposal through source reduction measures, (2) prohibit any diversion credit and/or renewable energy credit for conversion technology facilities using MSW as feedstock, and (3) define the terms "Engineered Municipal Solid Waste conversion" or "EMSW conversion" and "Engineered Municipal Solid Waste conversion facility." These facilities would be categorized as disposal facilities (no credit for diversion and/or renewable energy), subject to the requirements of disposal facilities in the Countywide Siting Element, and must meet a series of mostly arbitrary criteria of which some are mathematically/technically impossible/impractical to achieve. As such, it would be very doubtful that such a facility could technically and economically be developed in California for the foreseeable future.

Further, AB 939 requires each jurisdiction to achieve a 50 percent waste diversion rate. Compliance with this requirement is measured by achievement of a jurisdiction's target per capita disposal rate. In its attempt to assist the cement kiln industry that uses biomass (green) materials and used/waste tires as its processing fuel source, AB 1126 would specify that "solid waste" no longer includes these materials converted at an EMSW conversion facility. Unfortunately, the proposal, when combined with requirements of the existing State law (Section 41781 of the Public Resources Code), would allow the California Department of Resources Recycling Recovery (CalRecycle) to require a jurisdiction to recalculate and reduce its per capita disposal rate as established by Senate Bill 1016, Chapter 343, of the 2008 Statutes. This would have a major negative financial impact on each city and county in California. The Task Force is very concerned that this provision may jeopardize jurisdictions' compliance with the state's 50 percent waste diversion mandate. If jurisdictions were to fall out of compliance with AB 939 as a result of the recalculation/reduction of their allowable per capita disposal rate, they would be subject to fines of up to \$10,000 per day or \$3.65 million each year.

For the reasons mentioned, the Task Force **strongly opposes** AB 1126 and urges you to send an opposition letter to the California Legislature in order to, among other things, maintain your jurisdiction's allowable per capita disposal targets and avoid non-compliance to AB 939. Unfortunately, this bill has been moving quickly through the legislative process as jurisdictions have not been made aware of the negative consequences associated with its provisions. The bill is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 12, 2013. We encourage you to express your city's **opposition** as soon as possible.

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If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at [MikeMohajer@yahoo.com](mailto: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

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Enc.

cc: Each Member of the City Council, City Manager and City Clerk in the County of  
Los Angeles  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force