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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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April 5, 2012

State Assembly, Office of the Chief Clerk
State Capitol, Room 3196
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Members of the California State Assembly:

**SUPPORT - ASSEMBLY BILL 1834 (INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 22, 2012)
RECYCLING: REUSABLE BAGS**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Assembly Bill 1834 (AB 1834), which would establish a statewide uniform standard for carryout bags to be labeled as “reusable.” The Task Force has been an active supporter of legislation dealing with sustainable waste management practices that ultimately assist local governments in achieving State-mandated landfill diversion goals. Accordingly, the Task Force has supported efforts that would reduce the consumption of plastic and paper carry-out bags while promoting the increase in use of reusable bags.

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 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 effort to reduce the usage of plastic and paper carryout bags while increasing the usage of reusable bags has been a salient issue throughout the State in recent years. Consequently, there have been many companies that have looked to take advantage of the trend towards the usage of reusable bags by actively marketing their bags as “reusable.” However, there are bags that have been marketed as such that are sub-

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standard, failing to meet usage expectations and in some cases containing toxic levels of heavy metals. In light of these facts, there is a pressing need for a State-wide uniform standard for a bag to be labeled "reusable."

The standards set forth in AB 1834 mirror those adopted recently by a number of local government ordinances regarding grocery bags, including that of Los Angeles County. These standards give assurance to consumers that they are indeed using a bag that will not only sustain repeated usage but will not be detrimental to their health.

For these reasons, the Task Force **supports** AB 1834. Should 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

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cc: Assembly Member Julia Brownley
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
Each City Mayor and City Manager in the County of Los Angeles
Each member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force