



GAIL FARBER, CHAIR
MARGARET CLARK, VICE-CHAIR

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

The Honorable Cameron Smyth, Chair
Assembly Local Government Committee
1020 N Street, Room 157
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Assembly Member Smyth:

**OPPOSE - ASSEMBLY BILL 2257 (AMENDED MARCH 15, 2012)
NUISANCE: LANDFILL ACTIVITIES**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) is **opposed** to Assembly Bill 2257 (AB 2257 - Achadjian). If enacted, this bill would undermine local regulatory authority and would potentially endanger public health and safety.

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.

This bill would declare that no landfill operation that has been in operation for more than three years, and that has complied with all applicable laws and regulations can be declared a nuisance as a result of any development changes in the surrounding locality if it was not a nuisance at the time the landfill began operation. This would undermine existing regulations that were put in place with the objective of protecting public health, safety, and well being. It would also deprive the public and enforcement agencies the ability to take civil action or abatement orders should any problems occur after the three year window. Problems could easily occur due to a change in landfill ownership, operational changes, or many other factors.

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Assembly Member Achadjian proposed similar language in Assembly Bill 1016 in 2011. Due to strong opposition from various stakeholders, the Bill was amended to the point that it no longer contained any changes to the right of residents and other affected entities to bring action against landfills that become nuisances. The Task Force hopes the same action occurs for AB 2257.

For these reasons, the Task Force **opposes** AB 2257. 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 Achadjian
Assembly Member Alejo, Vice-Chair of the Local Government
Each member of the Assembly Committee on Local Government
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Each City Mayor and City Manager in Los Angeles County
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 member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force