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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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June 28, 2012

The Honorable Alex Padilla, Chair
Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee
State Capitol, Room 5046
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Padilla:

**SUPPORT IF AMENDED ASSEMBLY BILL 2390 (AMENDED JUNE 26, 2012)
ELECTRICITY: BIOMASS: INCENTIVE PROGRAMS: ELECTRIC PROGRAM
INVESTMENT CHARGE**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports if amended** Assembly Bill 2390 (AB 2390), which, if enacted, would establish an incentive program to compensate producers and collectors of biomass material derived from forest fuel reduction and fire prevention activities that are delivered to eligible biomass facilities for use as a fuel source.

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 is supportive of the author's effort to encourage forest fire prevention efforts and sustainable management of our State's forests by creating incentives for the use of excess forest biomass as a fuel in eligible biomass facilities. As the intent of the Bill indicates, the author is well aware of the multi-faceted benefits of technologies that

The Honorable Alex Padilla

June 28, 2012

Page 2

can convert biomass to energy, especially when sustainable management of excess forest biomass can prevent the unfortunate uncontrolled burning of thousands of acres of forest, a problem that has plagued the State of California with increasing frequency.

Unfortunately, the Bill as currently drafted limits eligibility of those incentives to facilities that essentially incinerate the biomass to produce heat which then creates steam to drive electricity generating steam-turbines. This excludes a host of innovative technologies, which can efficiently convert this forest biomass, along with a host of other biomass material, into fuels, electricity, and other valuable products without combusting the biomass directly. Such conversion technologies are successfully used around the world and should be eligible for the same incentives as existing biomass facilities. This would provide additional markets for excess forest biomass, thereby creating additional green jobs in California while helping to reduce the risk of catastrophic fires in the State.

For these reasons, the Task Force **supports** AB 2390 **if it is amended** to expand the facility eligibility limitations as discussed above. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or 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: Assembly Member Wesley Chesbro
Each member of the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications 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
Each City Mayor and City Manager in the County of Los Angeles
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force