



GAIL FARBER, CHAIR  
MARGARET CLARK, VICE - CHAIR

LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
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June 18, 2013

The Honorable John A. Perez, Speaker  
California State Assembly  
State Capital Room 219  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0053

Dear Speaker Perez:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 371 (AMENDED MARCH 19, 2013)  
SEWAGE SLUDGE: KERN COUNTY- OPPOSE**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **opposes** Assembly Bill 371 (AB 371).

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.

Currently, the California Integrated Waste Management Act requires each local jurisdiction to reduce the amount of solid waste disposed at landfills by 50 percent. Failure to mathematically demonstrate achievement of this requirement may subject local jurisdictions to penalties of up to \$10,000 per day.

Approximately 730,000 wet tons of biosolids are produced each year in the County of Los Angeles. The term biosolids refers to sewage sludge that has been treated and tested. This treated sludge can either be landfilled or beneficially used as soil amendment for agricultural, silviculture, horticulture, and land reclamation purposes in conformance with Federal, State, and local laws and regulations. A large percentage of biosolids generated in Los Angeles County's 88 cities and the unincorporated communities are exported out-of-County for beneficial uses.

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AB 371, if enacted, would provide Kern County the ability to circumvent recent court rulings by allowing them to ban the importation of biosolids by a vote of their Board of Supervisors. This Bill would have a significant impact on the 88 cities in Los Angeles County and the County's unincorporated communities' ability to manage their biosolids because only a handful of nearby counties in Southern California accept biosolids for land application or composting. Allowing one county to make a blanket ban on the importation of biosolids could have numerous repercussions, including:

- Leading to the landfilling of biosolids, thereby depleting in-county landfill capacity and possibly jeopardizing jurisdictions' ability to comply with the State's 50 percent waste reduction mandate.
- Leading local governments to transport their biosolids longer distances, including to out-of-State sites, thus increasing air pollution, causing extensive greenhouse gas emissions, and placing a significant economic burden on ratepayers.

Moreover, instituting a State law to provide preferential status to one county in order to ban the importation of biosolids establishes a bad precedent, fostering an atmosphere where counties are pitted against one another rather than mutually seeking beneficial solutions to our State's growing waste management needs—of which biosolids is only one issue.

Therefore, the Task Force **opposes** AB 371 as amended March 19, 2013. 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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cc: Assembly Member Rudy Salas  
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles 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  
County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force