



GAIL FARBER, CHAIR  
MARGARET CLARK, VICE - CHAIR

LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331  
P.O. BOX 1460, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460  
[www.lacountyiswmf.org](http://www.lacountyiswmf.org)

June 7, 2013

The Honorable Jerry Hill, Chair  
Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Hill:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 997 (INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 22, 2013)  
COMPOSTING: ANAEROBIC DIGESTION - SUPPORT**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Assembly Bill 997 (AB 997). The bill would define “anaerobic digestion” as a process using the bacterial breakdown of compostable organic material in a controlled environment and would include the process in the definition of “composting.”

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.

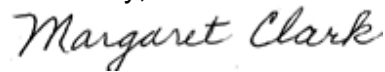
The Task Force has historically supported measures that would provide local jurisdictions increased flexibility in regards to solid waste management options including, but not limited to, compostable organic waste. Accordingly, the Task Force has been a strong supporter of an array of conversion technologies including, but not limited to, anaerobic digestion, which can convert post recycled residual solid waste into clean fuels and energy in an environmentally friendly manner. As proposed, the inclusion of anaerobic digestion to the definition of composting would partially facilitate the development of needed anaerobic digestion facilities and would help jurisdictions’ efforts to achieve compliance with AB 939 mandates as well as the waste reduction goals set forth in AB 341 (2011).

The Honorable Jerry Hill  
June 7, 2013  
Page 2

Anaerobic digestion has already been proven worldwide as an effective means to manage organic waste in an efficient and environmentally friendly manner. Moreover the process produces valuable renewable fuel that can be utilized in a variety of ways. The technology is already regulated by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) as a composting process. AB 997 would simply codify those regulations.

Therefore, the Task Force **supports** AB 997 as introduced February 22, 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

cc: Assembly Member Wesley Chesbro  
Each Member of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
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  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force  
Each Member of the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee