



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
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September 15, 2015

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown  
Governor, State of California  
State Capital Building  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

**VETO REQUEST - ASSEMBLY BILL 1045 (IRWIN)  
ORGANIC WASTE: COMPOSTING – ENROLLED SEPTEMBER 10, 2015**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **respectively requests that you veto** Assembly Bill 1045 (AB 1045) which may place the health and safety of residents at risk by tasking the CalEPA, ARB, and the State Water Board to streamline the permitting and regulation of composting facilities. The Task Force makes this veto request due to the absence of meaningful language addressing the following issues:

- Health and Public Safety, most notably as it pertains to effective containment of noxious and potentially deadly odors commonly associated with composting operations.
- Effective management of liquid discharge runoff from composting operations.

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. While the Task Force recognizes the broad, long-term, challenge the State has undertaken in shifting compostable organic waste from landfill disposal and managing this material in a more environmentally tenable manner, we firmly hold public health and safety as the single most critical policy matter in the regulation of any waste facility. The streamlining of permitting of composting facilities as proposed by this bill, and specifically its Subdivision 43032 (a), appears to disregard safeguards which were put in place in order to primarily protect the health and safety of our citizens, as well as natural resources such as water and air which all local jurisdictions must comply with pursuant to requirements of the Federal Clean Water and Clean Air Act. Moreover, the Task Force has also long held the position that local government and affected communities should be consulted in the policy decisions pertaining to the environmental impact of these

facilities. The Task Force believes AB 1045 does not adequately address these concerns.

As provided by AB 939 (1989) and Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code, the Task Force is responsible for coordinating the development of major solid waste planning documents for Los Angeles County and the 88 cities in the County with a population of over 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.

Absent a more salient priority for the issues discussed herewith, the Task Force **respectfully requests your veto of AB 1045**. Should you or your staff have any questions regarding this matter, 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  
Mayor, City of Rosemead

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cc: Assembly Member Jacqui Irwin  
David Lanier, Office of Governor Brown  
Marth Guzman-Aceves, Office of Governor Brown  
California State Association of Counties  
League of California Cities  
Each member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments  
South Bay Cities 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 City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force