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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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May 3, 2016

The Honorable Ricardo Lara, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 4203
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Lara:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 1144 (AMENDED AUGUST 17, 2015) – SUPPORT
RPS PROGRAM: RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS**

The Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Assembly Bill 1144 (AB 1144). AB 1144 would alter California's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) by modifying its electricity product content categories so that renewable energy credits for electricity generated by a publically owned wastewater treatment facility that first put into service on or after January 1, 2016, and used onsite count in category one, the most valuable of the three categories under RPS.

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 and 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.

Under California's RPS program, providers of retail electricity services are required to procure 33 percent of their electricity products from renewable energy resources by 2020. Three categories or "buckets" were created under the program. The first bucket is given more value than the other two since 50 percent of renewable energy under the program needs to be from this first category which is limited to renewable energy delivered directly into California. Unfortunately, electricity generated at wastewater treatment facilities from digested biomethane and used onsite is credited as part of the RPS's third bucket category despite it being delivered directly into the State.

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AB 1144 stands to correctly place onsite generation and usage of electricity at wastewater treatment facilities in the first bucket. Adding value to electricity generated and used at wastewater treatment facilities would provide incentive for such facilities to utilize organic material left over after the wastewater treatment process for renewable energy rather than landfilling or land applying the material.

Based on the foregoing, the Task Force **supports** AB 1144 as it stands to incentivize waste water treatment facilities to generate and use biomethane from organic material thereby extending landfill capacity while reducing landfills' methane gas emissions. If 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
Mayor, City of Rosemead

JJ:kk

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cc: Assembly Member Anthony Rendon
Each Member of the Senate Appropriations Committee
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 Cordinator in Los Angeles County
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force