



MARK PESTRELLA, CHAIR
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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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July 16, 2018

The Honorable Anthony J. Portantino, Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Portantino:

SUPPORT IF AMENDED – OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED – ASSEMBLY BILL 1981 (LIMÓN) AS AMENDED JUNE 28, 2018 – ORGANIC WASTE: COMPOSTING

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) would **support** Assembly Bill 1981 (AB 1981), as amended on June 28, 2018, if it is **amended** as indicated in this letter, and **opposes** it **unless amended** as indicated in this letter.

If enacted, AB 1981 would include the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to the list of state agencies required to work with the California Environmental Protection Agency to develop and implement a plan to aid in diverting organic waste from landfills by promoting composting, and by promoting the appropriate use of that compost throughout the state.

The Task Force supports state agencies' efforts to develop and implement policies that promote composting and its appropriate use and application throughout the state. However, the Task Force opposes the application of compost on "wild lands", which have large natural seed banks that need to germinate, particularly after a wild fire. Compost may prevent seeds from germinating and later sprouting and result in degradation of these natural areas. Therefore, the Task Force recommends amending the bill to include measures to prevent the application of compost on wild lands, but supports the use of it on working lands, including agricultural land and rangeland.

Additionally, the Task Force strongly recommends that provisions of Section 1 of the bill [Public resources Code, Section 42649.87, Subdivision (c), Paragraph (1)] be expanded to assess progress toward development of needed organic waste processing and recycling infrastructure necessary to meet the requirements mandated by Senate Bill 1383 (Chapter 395 of the State Statutes of 2016).

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939), the Task Force is responsible for coordinating the development of all major solid waste planning documents prepared for the County of

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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.

Based on the foregoing, the Task Force **supports** AB 1981 **if amended** to include (1) measures to prevent the application of compost on wild lands, and (b) assessment of measures necessary to comply with provisions of SB 1383 (2016); and **opposes** AB 1981 **unless amended** to include the foregoing provisions. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer, a member 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
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Rosemead

EC:cso

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cc: Assembly Member Monique Limón
Each Member and staff of the Senate Committee on Appropriations
Committee on Appropriations Staff Director, Mark McKenzie
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities – Los Angeles County Division
Each member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Sachi A. Hamai, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer
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 Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated
Waste Management Task Force