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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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March 5, 2020

The Honorable Laura Friedman, Chair
Assembly Committee on Natural Resources
1020 N Street, Room 171
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Friedman:

SUPPORT – ASSEMBLY BILL 2612 (MAIENSCHIEIN) AS INTRODUCED ON FEBRUARY 20, 2020 - GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND: RECYCLING: APPROPRIATION

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Assembly Bill 2612 (AB 2612), Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: recycling: appropriation, introduced on February 20, 2020. AB 2612 would amend Section 39719 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to greenhouse gases and allocates funding for solid and organic waste recycling infrastructure to help achieve the state's greenhouse gas emissions goals established by Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) (2016).

In 2017, China announced a policy, referred to as the China National Sword, which would implement a ban on certain materials and very stringent contamination standards for the import of other separated recyclable materials, beginning in 2018. As a result of the China National Sword Policy and the other similar sovereign policies, materials recovery facilities (MRFs) that serve California and Los Angeles County have been substantially impacted. They must now expend significantly more monies for labor and/or new equipment to recover less material that has lower resale values.

In addition to higher costs for lower revenue, more material is being landfilled instead of recycled. This is undercutting efforts to achieve statewide goals of 75 percent of solid waste diverted from landfill by 2020, as per Assembly Bill 341 (2011) (AB 341), and organic waste diversion of 50 percent by 2020, and then 75 percent by 2025, per SB 1383. According to the State Air Resources Board greenhouse gas inventory, approximately 7 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions are released annually by landfills, and this number is expected to increase to 8.5 million tons by the end of 2020 as waste continues to not be diverted.

AB 2612 would address the impacts of the China National Sword Policy by allocating \$200 million per year from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (Cap & Trade) to:

1. Improve California's statewide recycling infrastructure to achieve the State's greenhouse gas emission and solid and organic waste reduction goals established by SB 1383 (Chapter 395, Statutes of 2016), Assembly Bill 1826 (Chapter 727, Statutes of 2014), and AB 341 (Chapter 476, Statutes of 2011).
2. Improve existing and create new solid and organic waste recycling infrastructure to enable the state to better and more effectively manage, reuse, and recycle its waste stream in-state and to create additional jobs in the solid waste, recycling, and manufacturing sectors.
3. Assist local governments implement their solid and organic waste programs to achieve the state's greenhouse gas emission and solid and organic waste reduction goals.

The funds would be allocated as follows:

1. Organic Waste Management:
 - a. \$50 million/year for organics infrastructure grants and loans
 - b. \$50 million/year for grants to local jurisdictions for organics related activities
2. Recycling Infrastructure and Market Development
 - a. \$90 million/year for recycling infrastructure, recycling related activities, and market development grants and loans
 - b. \$10 million/year for grants to local jurisdictions for beverage container recycling and litter cleanup

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.

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Based on the foregoing, the Task Force **supports** AB 2612. 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, City of Rosemead

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cc: Assembly Member Brian Maienschein
Each Member and staff of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources
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