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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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***** FLOOR ALERT *****

TO: California State Senators

FROM: Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

SUPPORT IF AMENDED – ASSEMBLY BILL 296 (COOLEY) AS AMENDED ON AUGUST 30, 2019 – CLIMATE CHANGE: CLIMATE INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM: VOLUNTARY TAX CONTRIBUTIONS

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Assembly Bill 296 (AB 296), as amended on August 30, 2019, provided it is **amended** to include the recommendations in this letter. If enacted, the proposed legislation would establish the Climate Innovation Grant Program, administered by Strategic Growth Council, to award grants in the form of matching funds for the development and research of new innovations and technologies to address issues related to emissions of greenhouse gases and impacts caused by climate change. The bill would repeal the program on January 1, 2031. This bill would allow an individual to designate on their tax return that a specified amount in excess of their personal income tax liability be transferred to the Climate Innovation Voluntary Tax Contribution Account, which would be created by this bill. The Task Force supports the proposed legislation if it is expanded to include the following amendments:

- Ensure that grants are technology neutral, based on life cycle analysis, the principle of performance standards to help us better achieve our climate change emission reduction goals.
- Prioritize innovations that help meet the state's Short-Lived Climate Pollutant (methane) requirements and organics diversion goals such as post-recycled Municipal Solid Waste conversion technologies.

As provided by Assembly Bill 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. The Task Force addresses issues impacting the solid waste management system on a countywide basis.

Based on the foregoing, the Task Force **supports** AB 296 **if amended**. 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.

cc: Assembly Member Cooley