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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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July 10, 2018

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

Dear Senator Portantino:

**SUPPORT – ASSEMBLY BILL 3178 (RUBIO) AS AMENDED ON JUNE 27, 2018 –
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANS: SOURCE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING
ELEMENT: DIVERSION REQUIREMENTS**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Assembly Bill 3178 (AB 3178), as amended June 27, 2018.

This bill would make findings, including among others, that under China's National Sword import policy; many recyclable materials are now banned and may no longer be imported into that country, which has had a profound impact on California efforts to meet state recycling objectives.

AB 3178, if enacted, would require the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), when evaluating a jurisdiction's good faith effort to meet its diversion requirements, to also consider, until January 1, 2022, whether China's National Sword import policy caused the absence or loss of market for recyclable materials, necessitating the disposal of those materials as a temporary measure to protect public health and safety (emphasis added). The bill would also require CalRecycle to consider the extent to which the jurisdiction has made efforts to reduce contamination and improve the quality of recycled materials and the extent to which the lack of an available market for one or more types of recyclable materials, which prevented the jurisdiction from fully implementing its diversion programs, was the result of circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the jurisdiction.

Markets for recyclables are essential for local jurisdictions and State agencies in order to meet California's 75 percent recycling goal by 2020 as mandated by AB 341, Chapter 476 of the 2011 State Statutes. Also, according to CalRecycle, over 60 percent of exported recyclable materials were shipped to China in 2016 (approximately 6.4 million tons). However, China's National Sword import policy establishes a new recyclable materials maximum contamination level of 0.5 percent, which is practically impossible for the existing facilities to achieve.

Accordingly, the Task Force supports AB 3178 as it seeks to reasonably and on an interim basis address the issue of reduction in recycling markets by providing flexibility to local jurisdictions to meet diversion goals. The Task Force strongly believes that the development of much needed

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in-state infrastructure using various types of recycling technologies is essential to meet the State's 75 percent recycling goal while achieving the State's greenhouse gas reduction mandates.

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 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 **strongly supports** AB 3178. 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:BC:cso

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cc: Assembly Member Blanca Rubio
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