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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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July 28, 2016

The Honorable Ricardo Lara, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Lara:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 655 (AMENDED JUNE 15, 2016) - OPPOSE
INEDIBLE KITCHEN GREASE: REGISTRATION AND ADDITIONAL FEES**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) respectfully **opposes** Assembly Bill 655 (AB 655), as amended June 15, 2016. If enacted, AB 655 would substantially increase all fees collected from renderers and transporters of inedible kitchen grease. In addition, AB 655 would give sole authority to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to determine the “highest and best use” of inedible kitchen grease when developing regulations and policies.

Rendering is a process that converts animal waste into a valuable commodity. Rendering provides a multitude of benefits to the environment which include diverting additional waste from landfill disposal, preventing illegal grease dumping, and reuse of waste in a productive manner. Imposing significantly higher fees on the rendering industry without appropriate justification, and input from stakeholders may have an adverse impact on continuing to appropriately and safely dispose of inedible kitchen grease as well as complying with requirements of AB 1826 (Chapter 727 of the 2015 State Statutes) to reduce disposal of organic waste. Further, the CDFA alone or in consultation with an unelected Rendering Industry Advisory Board should not have the authority to determine the “highest and best use” of inedible kitchen grease without participation of other agencies and stakeholders, including, but not limited to solid waste haulers, who also share an interest; and only upon the results of a life cycle analysis to substantiate and quantify the amount of greenhouse gas reduction.

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

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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.

For the foregoing reasons, the Task Force **opposes** AB 655 as amended. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, 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
Council Member, City of Rosemead

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cc: Assembly Member Bill Quirk
Each Member of the Senate Appropriations Committee
Senate Appropriations Committee Consultant, Robert Ingenito
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities – Los Angeles County Division
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 Coordinator in Los Angeles County
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force