



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
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GAIL FARBER  
CHAIR

May 24, 2010

The Honorable Joseph Simitian, Chair  
Senate Committee on Environmental Quality  
State Capitol Building, Room 2205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Simitian:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 222 (ADAMS AND MA) AS AMENDED JULY 18, 2009:  
REQUEST SUPPORT POSITION**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **strongly supports Assembly Bill 222** (AB 222 - Adams and Ma). If enacted, AB 222 would level the playing field for the development of conversion technology facilities in California thereby improving the economy, reducing pollution, and generating renewable energy from the biogenic fraction of the wastestream, such as electricity and biofuels, as well as reducing our dependence on landfill disposal of post-recycled solid waste residuals.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (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 10 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, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, the City of Los Angeles, the waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

Despite implementing many of the most aggressive waste reduction and recycling policies and programs in the country, California continues to send approximately 40 million tons of residual, post-recycled solid waste to landfills and incinerators each year.

For many years, the Task Force has been a strong supporter of conversion technologies as an alternative to traditional disposal of this residual waste and has played a major role in promoting various technological studies by State agencies, universities, and scientific/engineering organizations to evaluate the viability of these technologies for development and operation in California. These studies include but are not limited to the following:

- **California Integrated Waste Management Board** – developed a report in 2005 in accordance with AB 2770 (2002) at a cost of \$1.5 Million. This report and its subsidiary report entitled *New & Emerging Conversion Technologies: Report to The Legislature - June 2007*, among other things concluded that (1) statutory definitions should be changed and clarified, specifically relating to the definition of gasification, (2) conversion technologies produce more energy and emit lower criteria pollutants (NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>x</sub>) than landfilling and transformation, (3) there are lower emission of CO<sub>2</sub> from conversion technologies than from landfilling and transformation, resulting in a positive impact from a climate change perspective, and (4) no negative impact on existing recycling and compost markets would occur if diversion credit were given for conversion technologies.
- **Interagency Bioenergy Working Group** – published their first Bioenergy Action Plan for California in July 2006. The most recent progress report on implementation of the Plan, the Bioenergy Action Plan: Progress to Plan, was published in November 2009. This Progress to Plan recommended that the Bioenergy Action Plan be updated to address issues that still present barriers to the development and use of biomass for energy in California. The Action Plan included recommendations to “revise the existing statutory definition for transformation and recommend a new definition for conversion technology that facilitates development of environmentally acceptable waste management alternatives” and to “establish financial incentives to encourage investment and support innovation in bioenergy technologies, and establish mechanisms for supporting bioenergy producers for the multiple benefits they provide.”
- **Los Angeles County Department of Public Works** – assessed over 100 various conversion technology companies in a 2005 report and in 2007 developed an in-depth evaluation report on the technical, economic, and environmental capabilities of a shortlist of technology companies.
- **University of California, Riverside** – analyzed third-party emissions data from operating thermal conversion technology facilities around the world in multiple reports including their most recent assessment of 16 gasification facilities in June 2009. These reports found that the technologies assessed would be able to operate within California’s stringent regulatory framework.

The provisions in AB 222 are consistent with Federal legislation such as H.R. 2454 (Waxman/Markey) – the American Clean Energy and Security Act, which defines the term “qualified waste-to-energy,” and requires that facilities converting waste-to-energy be in compliance with all Federal and state standards and local governments serving the areas (which the municipal solid waste for waste-to-energy is generated) to offer recycling services. The Senate Bill, the American Power Act (Kerry/Lieberman), released on May 12, 2010, has similar provisions.

Conversion technologies have the potential to aid us in meeting a number of our State’s progressive environmental goals including reducing greenhouse gas emissions (AB 32), recovering biomass resources for beneficial use (Bioenergy Action Plan), producing renewable fuels within the State (AB 118 of 2008/Low Carbon Fuel Standard), and generating local, renewable energy from the biogenic fraction of the residual wastestream (Renewable Portfolio Standard).

We are pleased that AB 222 has received bipartisan support from the legislature, various public and private organizations, and many of California’s jurisdictions including, but not limited to, the City and the County of Los Angeles. Our support position was further reinforced by the State’s leading agencies on air quality, energy and solid waste; California Air Resources Board, the California Energy Commission, and Cal Recycle when these agencies advised their support for AB 222 on April 15, 2010.

Cities and counties such as the Cities of Calabasas, Lancaster, Long Beach, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Jose, and Tulare and Counties of Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Bernardino, and Santa Barbara and the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority (joint powers agency comprised of the cities of Gonzales, Greenfield, King City, Salinas, and Soledad, and eastern Monterey County), among others, are in various stages of developing conversion technologies as part of their integrated waste management strategies. The passage of AB 222 is critically important for the success of these efforts.

We urge you to support this bill. The action taken by your Committee will determine whether or not California will lead the nation in the establishment of advanced technology facilities that will reduce our dependence on landfilling and waste exportation while injecting millions of dollars in capital investments to reinvigorate the State’s economy and create green-collar jobs.

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If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,

*Margaret Clark*

Margaret Clark, Vice-Chair  
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/  
Integrated Waste Management Task Force and  
Council Member, City of Rosemead

AS/TM:ts

cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Senate President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg  
Assembly Speaker John Perez  
Assembly Member Anthony Adams  
Assembly Member Fiona Ma  
Each Member of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
James D. Boyd, Vice Chair, California Energy Commission  
Margo Reid Brown, Director, CalRecycle  
Mary D. Nichols, Chair, California Air Resources Board  
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors  
Each City Mayor in the County of Los Angeles  
California State Association of Counties  
League of California Cities  
League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division  
Southern California Association of Governments  
San Fernando Valley Council of Governments  
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments  
South Bay Cities Council of Governments  
Gateway Cities Council of Governments  
County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Officer  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force