



GAIL FARBER
CHAIR

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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March 25, 2009

The Honorable Paul Krekorian
State Capitol Room 4005
Sacramento, CA 94249

Dear Assembly Member Krekorian:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 64 (INTRODUCED DECEMBER 9, 2008)
RENEWABLE ENERGY: RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **strongly opposes unless amended** Assembly Bill 64 (AB 64). AB 64 would increase the renewable electricity requirements and include local publicly owned electric utilities in the renewable portfolio standard (RPS) program. AB 64 would also impose new contradictory requirements that remove municipal solid waste from eligibility as a source of renewable energy. These requirements would have the effect of stifling the development of all advanced green technologies that convert post-recycled solid waste residuals into renewable energy by removing significant economic incentives for their development.

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 its 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.

AB 64, if enacted, amends the RPS program, effective January 1, 2011, to include local publicly owned electric utilities, and to increase the renewable electricity requirements by the following: 20% by December 31, 2010; 25% by December 31, 2015; 35% by December 31, 2020, and a goal of procuring at least 50% by December 31, 2035. Yet, AB 64 would also impose new requirements that effectively remove municipal solid waste from eligibility under RPS.

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The Task Force supports efforts to develop advancing renewable energy, which is vital to enhancing the environment, reducing our dependence on foreign oil, and creating local green collar jobs, yet we oppose any contradictory and/or regressive legislation which would essentially eliminate the potential for recovering beneficial use from waste materials and is conflicting with the State's bioenergy action plan.

Currently, California disposes of over 40 million tons of residual, post-recycled solid waste each year – a significant waste of resources that has grown steadily over the last decade, despite intense and successful waste reduction and recycling efforts. Throughout Europe and Asia, new conversion technologies are being implemented to better manage these wasted resources. Conversion technologies refer to a wide array of biological, chemical, thermal (excluding incineration) and mechanical technologies capable of converting residual post-recycled solid waste and other organic feedstocks into useful products, alternative fuels, and clean, renewable energy. Types of conversion technologies include pyrolysis, gasification, acid hydrolysis, and anaerobic digestion.

The Task Force has been a strong supporter of conversion technologies and has played a major role in promoting their development. Pursuant to Assembly Bill 2770 (2002), the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) in concert with the Universities of California Davis and Riverside conducted a three-year, \$1.5 million study to verify the viability of these technologies as an alternative to landfilling, with the ability to produce clean renewable energy that can significantly reduce GHG emissions and our dependence on fossil fuels. In addition, conversion technologies provide an opportunity to increase the number of green-collar jobs in the State of California, spurring economic development the State so urgently needs right now.

The Task Force applauds your efforts to increase renewable energy resources and respectfully requests you to amend AB 64 to not impede efforts to recover energy from organic waste materials. The Task Force is ready to assist the Legislature in this endeavor. However, unless the bill is amended to address these concerns, the Task Force **strongly opposes** AB 64.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force 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: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Senate President Pro Temp Darrell Steinberg
Assembly Speaker Karen Bass
Senator Dennis Hollingsworth, Minority Leader
Assembly Member Michael Villines, Minority Leader
Assembly Member Karen Bass
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation
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 Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County