



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331  
P.O. BOX 1460, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460  
[www.lacountyiswmtf.org](http://www.lacountyiswmtf.org)

GAIL FARBER  
CHAIR

March 17, 2009

The Honorable Julia Brownley  
State Capitol Room 6011  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0041

Dear Assembly Member Brownley:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 68 (INTRODUCED DECEMBER 12, 2008)  
SINGLE-USE CARRYOUT BAGS: ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: MITIGATION**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) would like to express its **support** for Assembly Bill 68 (AB 68), which would prohibit, on and after July 1, 2011, certain stores from providing a single-use carryout bag to a customer unless the store charges a \$0.25 per-bag fee at the point of sale.

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.

Each year, approximately 19 billion plastic carryout bags are consumed in California, the equivalent of 1,600 bags per household per year. Less than 5 percent of those bags are recycled, with the remainder disposed in landfills or ending up littered on our beaches, waterways, parks and roads. Plastic bag litter makes up as much as 25 percent of the litter stream and significantly impacts our communities and the environment. In Los Angeles County alone, local and State governments spend tens of millions of dollars each year on litter prevention, stormwater infrastructure, cleanup, and enforcement activities, addressing single-use bag litter. Communities throughout California are grappling with this issue and

The Honorable Julia Brownley  
March 17, 2009  
Page 2

are searching for ways to reduce the impact that littered bags have on their quality of life. If enacted, AB 68 would help to positively address this issue while building upon on the framework established by AB 2449 (2006 statutes).

The Task Force supports efforts that increases plastic bag recycling and reduces the use of single-use carryout bags. The establishment of per bag fees is a highly effective approach to reducing plastic bag usage and litter; therefore this bill would go a long way towards reducing the number of bags entering our environment. AB 68 would provide local governments the progressive tools they need in order to successfully address this issue.

Therefore the Task Force **supports** AB 68. 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

AS/RG:ca

P:\Sec\Taskforce\AB 68

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  
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