



GAIL FARBER
CHAIR

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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September 8, 2009

The Honorable Wesley Chesbro
State Capitol Room 2176
Sacramento, CA 94249

Dear Assembly Member Chesbro:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 737 (AMENDED SEPTEMBER 4, 2009)
MAJOR REVISIONS TO THE CALIFORNIA'S INTEGRATED WASTE
MANAGEMENT ACT**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **strongly opposes** Assembly Bill 737 (AB 737), which among other things, would essentially increase the waste diversion mandate imposed on local governments from 50 percent to 75 percent effective January 1, 2020. It would also impose implementation of mandatory commercial recycling programs on local government.

Much to our surprise, on September 4, 2009, AB 737 was “gutted and amended” to incorporate key legislative provisions of AB 479 which has been stalled in the Senate due to strong opposition by local governments and the Task Force. It appears that the goal of this major “gut and amend” is to bypass the Legislature’s committee process which had extensively reviewed AB 479 and had placed it on the “suspense file” because of valid concerns by local governments, as well as its significant implementation costs to be borne by local governments and the California businesses.

While AB 737 proposes to substantially increase the State’s solid waste diversion rates, placing a significant burden on local governments, it fails to address the fundamental tools necessary to achieve the Bill’s mandates. These tools include, but are not limited to the need to:

- Producer responsibility. We believe that the greatest waste reduction gains can be achieved by requiring manufacturers to take responsibility for their products and implement sustainable recovery programs.
- Substantially enhance the State’s recycling market development efforts.
- Conduct a cost/benefit and feasibility analysis of an increased diversion mandate, in conjunction with all affected stakeholders, and make a determination that the proposed increase in the diversion rate is reasonable and justified.
- Revise the current solid waste management hierarchy to include conversion technologies based on their technical and environmental performance

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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.

While the Task Force has a long record of support for efforts to develop additional waste processing, recycling and composting infrastructure and programs, AB 737 would unnecessarily burden local governments and fail to provide any new tools that are necessary for local governments to succeed. Therefore, the Task Force **strongly opposes** AB 737. 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
Mayor, City of Rosemead

cc: Senate President Pro Temp Darrell Steinberg
Assembly Speaker Karen Bass
Senator Dennis Hollingworth, Minority Leader
Assembly Member Sam Blakeslee, Minority Leader
Each Member of the Senate
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