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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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June 15, 2021

The Honorable Benjamin Allen, Chair
Senate Committee on Environmental Quality
State Capitol, Room 2205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Allen:

SUPPORT IF AMENDED - ASSEMBLY BILL 881 (LORENA GONZALEZ, FRIEDMAN, CRISTINA GARCIA AND MATHIS) AS AMENDED ON APRIL 12, 2021 – PLASTIC WASTE: DIVERSION: RECYCLING: EXPORT

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Assembly Bill 881 (AB 881), as amended on April 12, 2021, **if it is further amended** to include the recommendations in this letter.

If enacted, the proposed legislation would establish the following criteria/standards for mixed plastic waste exported for recycling in order to be credited toward a local jurisdiction's solid waste diversion rate:

1. The plastic waste export is a mixture of plastic wastes consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, or polyethylene terephthalate and the export is destined for separate recycling of each material.
2. The plastic waste export is not prohibited by an applicable law or treaty of the country of destination and the import of the plastic waste into the country of destination will be conducted in accordance with all applicable laws and treaties of the country of destination.

The above criteria/standards would not include export to Canada and Mexico until January 1, 2024, or the expiration of a relevant trade agreement or arrangement with Canada and Mexico, whichever is later.

The Task Force agrees that the bill would support proper handling and recycling of exported plastic waste, however, to ensure that local jurisdictions are not penalized for the failure of exporters to comply with these standards, a matter essentially outside the control of local jurisdictions, the Task Force recommends the bill be **amended to include** a mechanism for penalizing exporters whose failure to comply results in a loss of diversion credit to a jurisdiction.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939), 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 ten million.

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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.

Based on the foregoing, the Task Force **supports** AB 881 **if amended** to include the recommendations in this letter. If you have any questions, 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
Mayor City of Rosemead

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cc: Assembly Member Carrillo
Assembly Member Friedman
Assembly Member Cristina Garcia
Assembly Member Lorena Gonzalez
Assembly Member Mathis
Assembly Member McCarty
Assembly Member Stone
Assembly Member Ting
Senator Hueso
Senator Weiner
Each Member and staff of the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities – Los Angeles County Division
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Fesia A. Davenport, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Council of Government
South Bay 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 the County of Los Angeles
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force