



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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GAIL FARBER, CHAIR
MARGARET CLARK, VICE - CHAIR

February 20, 2014

Honorable Jerry Brown
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

**PROPOSED BUDGETARY CHANGES TO THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER
RECYCLING PROGRAM (BCRP)**

The Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) requests your consideration of the following comments regarding the proposed programmatic changes to the Beverage Container Recycling Program (BCRP) in the 2014-15 Budget (copy enclosed).

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939 [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 ten million. Consistent with these responsibilities and to ensure a coordinated, 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.

Currently, State statute (Public Resources Code, Section 14581(a)(4)(A)) sets aside \$10.5 million annually to provide funding to local jurisdictions for beverage container recycling and litter reduction activities. This grant funding, which is managed by CalRecycle, is provided directly to jurisdictions in proportion to the population in each jurisdiction. These funds have been a valuable resource in reaching/educating the

public on the importance of beverage container recycling and its benefits to the environment. It has also been a driving force in working toward CalRecycle's goal to achieve and maintain an 80 percent recycling rate for all California Refund Value (CRV) beverage containers. Without these funds it would not be financially possible for local governments to continue educating residents about the new recycling options that are becoming available every year. The proposal to eliminate the current proportional grant program and replace it with a competitive grant program is of great concern to the Task Force. Competitive grant programs such as those proposed require local jurisdictions to expend limited resources to submit grant applications without any assurance that sufficient, or any, funding will be awarded.

Also included in the proposed budget is the elimination of the curbside supplemental payment of \$15 million made annually to operators of single-family residential curbside recycling collection programs and neighborhood drop-off programs, which operate under contract with a city, county, or other public agency. The payments are distributed to individual curbside programs based on each program's proportional share of the volume of beverage containers collected over a 12-month period at the approximate rate of \$0.007 per container. We are concerned that eliminating this program could trigger a rate increase born directly by our residents. We believe this proposal needs to be further refined, perhaps considering a phased approach such as that proposed for eliminating the processing fee subsidies.

It should be noted that these two programs are relatively minor expenditures in proportion to the \$1.2 billion annual budget for the BCRP. We recognize there are structural deficiencies in the balance of revenue and expenditures for the BCRP; however, we would encourage the State to provide additional time for reforms already implemented to correct for these deficiencies and to take further action to curtail waste, fraud and abuse within the system, rather than eliminating programs that are currently functioning well. If these proposals are intended to increase transparency and efficiency of the BCRP, we recommend a collaborative effort between CalRecycle and local governments in developing more detailed reporting requirements and deadlines.

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Thank you for your consideration of our comments. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147 or MikeMohajer@yahoo.com.

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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Enc.

cc: The Honorable Darrell Steinberg, Senate Pro Tem
The Honorable John Perez, Speaker of the California Assembly
Each Member of the California Senate & the California Assembly
Ms. Martha Guzman-Aceves, Deputy Legislative Secretary,
Office of Governor Jerry Brown
Ms. Caroll Mortensen, Director, CalRecycle
Ms. Graciela Castillo, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs, CalRecycle
League of California Cities
California State Association of Counties
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Each City Mayor/Manager in the County of Los Angeles
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Counsel of Governments
Southern California Association of Governments
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force