



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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DEAN D. EFSTATHIOU
CHAIRMAN

October 21, 2008

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
869 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**SUPPORT FOR BLUEFIRE ETHANOL PROJECT
CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NUMBER 2007-00137**

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force), I would like to express our **support** for the proposed BlueFire Ethanol Project in the unincorporated area of the Antelope Valley near Lancaster. On October 16, 2008, the Task Force unanimously voted to support the Project contingent upon the facility's compliance with all rules and regulations established by federal, state, regional and local governmental agencies as well as receiving all necessary/applicable permits from these agencies.

On July 23, 2008, the County Regional Planning Commission issued a conditional use permit for the proposed Project; subsequently, the Commission's decision was appealed to your Board. It is anticipated that your Board will consider the appeal at your October 28, 2008 meeting. Your Board's decision to uphold the Regional Planning Commission's approval of the BlueFire Ethanol Project is important to maintaining the growing momentum for the development of safe, clean and renewable technology projects in California, which are vital to redeveloping our economy and meeting the new environmental challenges of the 21st century.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 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. 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 from your Board, as well as the League of California Cities-Los Angeles County Division, the City of Los Angeles, the waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

Conversion technologies, such as the BlueFire Ethanol Project, are state-of-the-art processes that have the ability to convert source-separated or post-recycled residual waste and turn it into marketable products, biofuels, and renewable energy. In addition, conversion technologies have the capacity to reduce the need for landfills, decrease net air pollutant emissions (including greenhouse gas emissions), move us towards energy independence, and produce high level "green collar" jobs. Currently, there are over 140 conversion technology facilities successfully operating in Europe, Japan and elsewhere, utilizing a variety of processes (thermal, chemical, and biological).

The Task Force, along with your Board, has been a consistent supporter of conversion technologies for nearly a decade, working to increase local support and awareness, as well as promoting scientific research and development of conversion technologies through a variety of means. For example, the Task Force in concert with your Board, has advocated and supported legislation to spur the development of these technologies, formed the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee (a panel of experts from around the State with special knowledge and interest in this field), and is currently working with the County of Los Angeles to develop one or more conversion technology demonstration facilities in Southern California.

The BlueFire Ethanol Project utilizes a proprietary chemical and biological process to convert local source separated and/or post-recycled solid waste residuals such as green waste and wood waste into ethanol. BlueFire is attempting to capitalize on the growing demand for ethanol in California since the state uses approximately one billion gallons of ethanol per year, which is primarily blended into gasoline to reduce smog. In comparison, ethanol that is imported from the Midwest is formulated from large quantities of corn, consuming a valuable food resource rather than utilizing waste materials that would otherwise be disposed. Because the BlueFire Ethanol Project has the potential to revolutionize the way we manage solid waste (turning a liability into a resource with its operation subject to full compliance with all strict air, water and environmental regulations and standards), the Task Force supports the Project.

If additional review of the BlueFire Ethanol Project is needed as the project develops, the Task Force would be available to work with the local community while volunteering the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee's expertise to assist all regulatory agencies having direct oversight of the Project.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
October 21, 2008
Page 3

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147, or you may contact me at (626) 288-7308.

Sincerely,

Margaret Clark

Margaret Clark, Vice-Chair
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force and
Council Member, City of Rosemead

CS:pa

cc: Each Member of the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission
Each City Mayor in the County of Los Angeles
Southern California Association of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
Association of Rural Town Councils
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer
Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Each Member of the Task Force's Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County