



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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GAIL FARBER
CHAIR

April 20, 2009

Mr. Mike Chrisman
Secretary for Natural Resources, Council Chair
California Ocean Protection Council
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612-2512

Dear Chair Chrisman:

**SUPPORT FOR THE COMPLETION OF A MASTER ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
ON SINGLE-USE PLASTIC AND PAPER BAGS AND REUSABLE BAGS**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) commends the California Ocean Protection Council for taking action to address critical issues facing California's coast and ocean regarding marine debris. Please accept our support for the recommended action to complete a Statewide Master Environmental Assessment (MEA) on single-use plastic and paper bags, and reusable bags. The proposed MEA would provide valuable information for California municipalities to assist in preparing Environmental Impact Reports (EIR) more efficiently, and enhance resources for public policy decision makers to develop actions and ordinances regarding single-use bags.

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 the 88 cities in the County of Los Angeles 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 the County of Los Angeles, 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.

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Many California jurisdictions are developing ordinances to restrict or prohibit the usage of single-use bags and, in some cases, considering implementing fees on paper bags. Completion of an MEA on single-use bags will greatly streamline the EIR processes for many jurisdictions by allowing them to incorporate the MEA into their respective EIRs, saving time and money. In addition, this will provide public policy decision makers with the necessary support data to implement single-use bag regulations throughout the State.

The Task Force supports the California Ocean Protection Council in moving forward with the preparation of the much needed MEA. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



GAIL FARBER, CHAIR
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

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- cc: Each Member of the California Ocean Protection Council
Each Member of the California Integrated Waste Management Board
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