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MARGARET CLARK, VICE - CHAIR

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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May 11, 2012

The Honorable Joe Simitian, Chair
Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol, Room 2080
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Simitian:

**OPPOSE - SENATE BILL 1159 (AMENDED APRIL 17, 2012)
PLASTIC BAG: LABELING**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **opposes** Senate Bill 1159 (SB 1159) which would prohibit stores from distributing plastic carryout bags unless the bags contain the phrase "Please Recycle This Bag."

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 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.

The Task Force is supportive of efforts to increase solid waste landfill diversion and as such support efforts to increase in-state recycling. However, our research indicates that manufacturers of plastic carryout bags already print phrases on their respective bags that are either identical to the required phrase in this Bill or to the same effect. As such, the Task Force views this Bill as unneeded, and in light of statistics that show less than 5% of plastic bags are indeed recycled, ineffective.

The Honorable Joe Simitian

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For these reasons, the Task Force **opposes** SB 1159. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



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

CM:fm

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cc: Senator Ron S. Calderon
Each Member of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
San Fernando Valley Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
Westside Cities Council of Governments
Each City Mayor and City Manager in the County of Los Angeles
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force