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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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April 24, 2013

The Honorable Alex Padilla, Chair
Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee
State Capitol, Room 5046
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Padilla,

**SENATE BILL 715 (AMENDED APRIL 8, 2013)
RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES: MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE COMBUSTION**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Senate Bill 715 (SB 715), and suggests amendments to make the bill even stronger. If enacted, this bill would bring parity for waste-to-energy facilities in the State which would, among other things, stabilize utility rates for local residents and encourage continued production of energy from waste materials that would otherwise be sent to landfills. Additionally, SB 715 contains a sunset date for this classification with an incentive to convert the facilities to a more efficient technology in the future while continuing to divert materials from disposal.

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.

Since 2002, the Stanislaus County Resource Recovery Facility (SCRRF), a waste-to-energy facility, has been considered a renewable energy facility under the State's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) Program (SB 1078, Chapter 516 of the 2002 State Statutes). SCRRF converts post-recycled residual municipal solid waste (MSW) into energy. There are two other waste-to-energy facilities in the State, both in Los Angeles County, that utilize the same technology for the same purpose. However, due to a quirk in the enabling legislation, these two facilities are not classified as renewable energy facilities. SB 715 would simply bring parity for these types of facilities.

The parity established under SB 715 would stabilize electricity rates for Los Angeles County residents who use energy created at these facilities. The two facilities, which are located in the City of Long Beach and City of Commerce, have long term contracts with the local electricity provider to sell them energy at no less than 9 cents per kilowatt hour. However, both contracts expire within five years and the current market rate for non-renewable energy is approximately 3 to 4 cents. The projected loss in revenue, if all other factors remain constant, may well result in the closure of these facilities. As a consequence, the amount of electricity that would need to be transported from many miles away would increase, while the 630,000 tons of post-recycled MSW these facilities process would be sent to more distant landfill sites. The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery has determined that this would lead to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions, among other detrimental impacts.

The Task Force supports the provisions of SB 715 to provide parity for facilities in Los Angeles County. In addition, the Task Force supports amending the bill to also remove the operational date requirement currently in State law. As currently drafted, only grandfathered facilities are eligible to receive the designation as an RPS qualified facility, while new facilities that would be even cleaner and more efficient would not receive the same classification.

Therefore, the Task Force **supports** SB 715, and suggests **it be amended** as indicated above. 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

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cc: Senator Ricardo Lara
Each Member of the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
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 Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
San Fernando Valley Council of Governments
Westside Cities Council of Governments