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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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May 17, 2016

The Honorable Ricardo Lara, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capital Room 2206
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Lara:

SENATE BILL 1043, AMENDED APRIL 25, 2016: RENEWABLE GAS: BIOGAS AND BIOMETHANE – SUPPORT IF AMENDED

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Senate Bill 1043 (SB 1043), **if amended** to reinsert provisions related to “biomass conversion”, which was included in the bill as amended March 30, 2016, as well as to include language, which assures health and safety of residents will not be marginalized as a consequence of increased biofuel production.

Pursuant to the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939 [AB 939], as amended) and Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code, 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, the waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

The Task Force has long been a supporter of in-State production of biofuels while protecting the health and safety of residents. In its current form, SB 1043 does not address health and safety considerations, the Task Force respectfully requests insertion of language which would indicate health and safety as paramount with this proposal.

Biomethane production provides a multitude of benefits to the State. Increased in-State production of biomethane would reduce air emission of greenhouse

gases from landfills while providing local jurisdictions options to safely divert organic waste. Moreover, increasing the in-State production of biomethane would reduce air and water pollution associated with fossil-fuel and natural gas which is typically imported from outside the State.

Considering these beneficial provisions, the Task Force believes the language of SB 1043, as amended, March 30, 2016, which would have expanded the definition of "biomass conversion" to include the conversion of material left over after composting, would provide added benefit for the State's organic waste diversion goals. The State has limited acceptable processes for the purpose of AB 1826 (Chesbro, 2014) to aerobic and anaerobic composting. These processes generate substantial left-over material, which would have to be landfilled if they cannot be sent to biomass facilities. This residual material is ideal feedstock to safely generate biofuel from thermal non-combustion conversion technologies while diverting the material from landfills.

Moreover, the March 30, 2016, iteration of the bill would have removed the exclusion of sewage sludge from the list of biomass conversion materials. Currently, sewage sludge processing is limited to landfilling or land application, both of which are unsustainable practices for a variety of reasons. Sewage sludge has a significant amount of stored energy which should be utilized and SB 1043 is the perfect vehicle for this beneficial use.

Based on the foregoing, the Task Force **supports** SB 1043 **if amended** to reinsert the language which expanded the definition of "biomass conversion" as proposed in the March 30, 2016, iteration of SB 1043 as well to identify health and safety as a chief consideration for increased biofuel production. 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
Mayor, City of Rosemead

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cc: Senator Ben Allen
Each Member of the Senate Appropriations Committee
Mark McKenzie, Senate Appropriations Committee Staff Director
Bioenergy Association of California

The Honorable Ricardo Lara

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California State Association of Counties

League of California Cities

Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

Sachi A. Hamai, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer

San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

South Bay Cities 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 SWMC/Integrated Waste Management Task Force