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MARGARET CLARK, VICE - CHAIR

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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August 2, 2016

The Honorable Ricardo Lara, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Lara:

SENATE BILL 1153: BIOMETHANE: RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS ACT

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Senate Bill 1153 (SB 1153), as amended April 25, 2016. This bill would require the State Air Resource Board, in consultation with other state entities, to include in the update to the scoping plan a comprehensive overview of state efforts to encourage the development of in-state biomethane and renewable natural gas.

The Task Force has long been a supporter of utilizing the State's organic waste in order to generate and use biofuels. With the enactment of Assembly Bill 1900 (AB 1900, Gatto) in 2012 and subsequent actions undertaken pursuant to AB 1900, quality and safety standards have been established for injection of biomethane, which is also known as renewable natural gas, into common carrier pipelines. For a variety of reasons, including the volatile nature of the natural gas market, very little biomethane has been injected into the pipelines. Increased in-state biomethane production 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 derived natural gas which is typically imported from outside the State.

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 Honorable Ricardo Lara
August 2, 2016
Page 2

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.

For the foregoing reasons, the Task Force **supports** SB 1153 as amended. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer, a Member of the Task Force, at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or at (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 Anthony Cannella
Each Member of the Senate Appropriations Committee
Senate Appropriations Committee Consultant, Narisha Bonakdar
California Air Resources Board
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities – Los Angeles County Division
Each member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
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 City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force