



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
P.O. BOX 1460, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460
www.lacountyiswmtf.org

March 28, 2016

The Honorable Bob Wieckowski, Chair
Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol, Room 2205
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Wieckowski:

**SENATE BILL 970 – INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 8, 2016 - SUPPORT IF AMENDED
ORGANIC FOOD WASTE DIVERSION**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) is pleased to **support** Senate Bill 970 (SB 970), **if amended**. In its current form, SB 970 would require the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), in consultation with the State Air Resources Board (ARB) and the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, to develop a pilot program that encourages cost-effective and efficient integrated organic food waste diversion projects by June 1, 2017.

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, 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.

SB 970's objective of organic waste diversion aligns with multiple previously chaptered State laws pertaining to waste diversion mandates and/or statewide policy goals, including AB 32 (2006, Nunez), AB 341 (2011, Chesbro), and AB 1826 (2014, Chesbro). SB 970 may provide local jurisdictions with the additional resources necessary for efficient organic waste diversion projects on a regional scale.

Senator Bob Wieckowski

March 28, 2016

Page 2

However, while the Task Force is highly encouraged to see legislation such as SB 970, the Task Force respectfully recommends the following amendments:

- Section 2, Subdivision (f) – pursuant to AB 1826, insert “**as defined in Subdivision 42649.8 (c)**” between organic waste and constitutes more than.....
- The source of the funding for the program should be identified in this bill and should not impact or take-away from the currently proposed Fiscal Year 2016-17 greenhouse gas reduction funds to CalRecycle.
- Revise the specified scale of the funded project/program from a pilot to a commercial scale operation.
- New Section 42649.88, first sentence, insert “**while protects public health and safety and the environment, it also**” between....”Commission, shall develop a pilot program that””encourages cost-effective and....”

Upon inclusion of these amendments, the Task Force believes SB 970 stands to improve the State’s broader organics diversion goals with greater potential impact and reach, particularly as organics remain among the principal catalysts of methane emissions, one of the most potent and toxic gases among all greenhouse gases.

Based on the foregoing, the Task Force **supports SB 970, if amended** to include the proposed enhancements to the bill, as described 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
Mayor, City of Rosemead

GA:kk

P:\epub\EA\EA\TF\TF\Letters\2016\March\SB970SupportLetter.doc

cc: Senator Connie Leyva
Each Member of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Senate Environmental Quality Committee Consultant (Rebecca Newhouse)
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities

Senator Bob Wieckowski

March 28, 2016

Page 3

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