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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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April 7, 2016

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

Dear Senator Wieckowski:

**SENATE BILL 970 (AMENDED MARCH 28, 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 (CEC), 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 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.

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.

The Task Force is one of the State's most ardent supporters of conversion technologies and appreciates SB 970's March 28, 2016 amendment which identifies a source of funding for the pilot demonstration program. However, while the Task Force is highly encouraged to see legislation such as SB 970, the Task Force respectfully maintains recommendations for the following amendments (suggested amendments underlined in bold):

- Revise Section 2, Subdivision (f) to read: Organic waste, **as defined in Subdivision 42649.8 (c)**, constitutes more than one-third of California's waste stream. Food waste alone accounts for about five million tons of landfilled organics each year.
- Revise the first sentence in the proposed Section 42649.88, to read, "No later than June 1, 2017, the department, in consultation with the State Air Resources Board and the State Water Resources Control Board, shall develop a pilot demonstration program to provide matching grant funds for cost effective and efficient regional integrated food waste diversion projects at existing wastewater treatment facilities **while also protecting public health, safety and the environment.**"

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

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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

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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