



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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GAIL FARBER, CHAIR
MARGARET CLARK, VICE-CHAIR

March 14, 2014

The Honorable Jerry Hill, Chair
Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol, Room 5046
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Hill:

**SENATE BILL 1020 (INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 14, 2014) – SUPPORT
HAZARDOUS WASTE: PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS: COLLECTION AND
RECYCLING PROGRAMS**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Senate Bill 1020 (SB 1020). If enacted, SB 1020 would require photovoltaic (PV) panel manufacturers, individually, collectively, or in conjunction with PV panel vendors, to establish a program for the collection, transportation, reuse, recycling, and proper disposal of end-of-life PV panels. SB 1020 would also require the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to approve the program and prohibit those who fail to comply from selling or offering for sale PV panels in California.

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.

The Task Force has long been a strong supporter of product stewardship as a mechanism for protecting the public's health and safety and the environment at the source while in turn reducing costs for local government to address the unintended environmental impacts of products. The State of California has become a national leader in solar panel installations, yet there are environmental and public health

concerns linked with the manufacturing and improper disposal of PV panels. The primary concerns include leaching of toxic waste into groundwater; mining of rare metals (silver, indium, gallium, and germanium) and conventional resources (primarily aluminum and glass); and safety in dismantling.

Moreover, because California leads the nation in solar panel installation, it is equally critical that the state lead in fostering a comprehensive and innovative system for the collection, recycling, and safe disposal of PV panels at the end of their useful life. California has an opportunity to promote best practices in the solar industry to ensure that hazardous waste is properly managed and the industry develops responsible recycling efforts.

SB 1020 will make it convenient for consumers and end users to return and recycle end-of-life PV panels. The bill provides PV panel manufacturers and vendors of solar systems with the flexibility of partnering with each other and private and nonprofit business enterprises to achieve economies of scale while properly disposing of end-of-life PV panels in California.

Therefore, the Task Force **supports** SB 1020. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147 or MikeMohajer@yahoo.com.

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 Bill Monning
Each Member of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Each member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
League of California Cities
California State Association of Counties
California Product Stewardship Council
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