



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
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GAIL FARBER  
CHAIRMAN

October 1, 2009

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor of the State of California  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

**SENATE BILL 402 (ENROLLED SEPTEMBER 15, 2009)  
RECYCLING: BEVERAGE CONTAINERS: REDEMPTION PAYMENTS**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) respectfully requests that you **veto** Senate Bill 402 (SB 402), which would expand the California Beverage Container Recycling Program without the necessary provisions to ensure that collected materials are properly recycled.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (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 its 88 cities in Los Angeles County with a combined population in excess of 10 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, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, the City of Los Angeles, the waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

If enacted, SB 402 would revise the term 'beverage' to include a variety of juices and noncarbonated drinks containing vegetable, fruit, nut, grain, or soy ingredients, and extends the California Redemption Value (CRV) to these added beverage containers.

While the Task Force supports recycling as an alternative to landfilling, SB 402 would create obstacles to the implementation of extended producer responsibility by expanding provisions of the bottle bill, thus subjecting the State to a reliance on an advanced disposal fee mechanism to manage this type of solid waste stream.

Further, if SB 402 is enacted, it would increase the volume of materials collected for recycling without addressing the need to expand local markets for recyclable materials. The current global economic downturn and collapse of the global recycling market has negatively affected the State's already weakened recycling infrastructure and industries. Currently, most recyclables are being stockpiled, and may soon be disposed of in landfills due to lack of overseas markets in Pacific Rim countries.

Nevertheless, most recyclable materials continue to be shipped to countries where environmental rules and regulations are either nonexistent and/or substantially below those operating in California. As a result, expanding the shipment of recyclable materials over incredibly long distances to these countries for management and remanufacturing is not a sound policy for California due to the increase in environmental contamination, including but not limited to, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. This concern is further substantiated by the California Integrated Waste Management Board's draft *Life Cycle Assessment and Economic Analysis of Organic Waste Management and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Options*, which concedes that "...data characterizing the energy and emissions for manufacturing operations in East Asia is not available." In the absence of such data, the Task Force does not believe it is appropriate to expand the volume of recyclables collected without taking any steps to expand local markets for those materials.

Lastly, SB 402 was speedily gutted and amended on September 11, and passed not only through the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, but also through the Assembly and Senate on the same day. This "expedited" process afforded little time for comments or suggestions from stakeholders, and negated the opportunity for members of the public to participate in a decision making process regarding a bill whose impact not only has wide reaching implications on waste management and recycling in California, but also has a significant impact on the economic well being of our citizens. Finally, SB 402 provides no guarantee that its implementation will reduce environmental contamination and greenhouse gas emissions.

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Therefore we **respectfully request that you veto** SB 402. Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force 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: Senate President Pro Temp Darrell Steinberg  
Assembly Speaker Karen Bass  
Senator Dennis Hollingsworth, Minority Leader  
Assembly Member Sam Blakeslee, Minority Leader  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation  
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors  
California State Association of Counties  
League of California Cities  
California Product Stewardship Council  
League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division  
Southern California Association of Governments  
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments  
South Bay Cities Council of Governments  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force  
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County