



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

January 8, 2014

The Honorable Jerry Hill, Chair
Senate Environmental Quality Committee
California State Capitol, Room 2205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Hill,

SENATE BILL 498 (AMENDED JANUARY 7, 2014)
SOLID WASTE: BIOMASS CONVERSION - SUPPORT

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Senate Bill 498 (SB 498) as amended on January 7, 2014. The bill would revise the definition of biomass conversion to include certain types of conversion technologies, as defined, in addition to controlled combustion.

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 inclusion of conversion technologies in the definition of "biomass conversion" would allow jurisdictions increased flexibility to manage a defined set of their source separated compostable organic solid waste. Additionally, it would make it possible for existing biomass facilities to upgrade from traditional combustion to newer more efficient conversion technologies. Without more options, organic waste may need to be transported to facilities hundreds of miles away from the generation points, which are both economically and environmentally costly.

The Honorable Jerry Hill
January 8, 2014
Page 2

Therefore, the Task Force **supports** SB 498 as amended on January 7, 2014. 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
Council Member, City of Rosemead

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cc: Senator Ricardo Lara
Each Member of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
San Fernando Valley 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 Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Each Member of the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee