



**GAIL FARBER  
CHAIR**

**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](http://www.lacountyiswmtf.org)**

December 18, 2008

Ms. Margo Brown, Chair  
California Integrated Waste Management Board  
PO Box 4025  
Sacramento, CA 95812-4025

Dear Chairperson Brown:

**SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL RECYCLING MARKETS AND JOB CREATION IN CALIFORNIA**

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force), I wish to express our serious concern with the recent drastic decline in the market value of recyclable materials as further substantiated by the Board's November 14, 2008, news release entitled "Recycled Materials Going Through Shakeup: State Agency Working To Keep California's Environment Protected." This matter has brought to light a long standing deficiency in the current model used for the diversion of materials. State mandates for recycling have created an extensive supply of diverted materials, but have failed to thoroughly address the market demand side of the "recycling equation." The result has been a substantial dependence on China and other foreign countries as markets for our recyclable materials, where there are substantially inadequate environmental controls for processing these materials, which manufacture goods for sale in the United States, and thus deprive Californians of jobs.

For many years, the Task Force along with local jurisdictions has been recommending that the State needs to take a greater role in the development of statewide markets which use recyclable materials. In a letter to the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) in 1999, the Task Force voiced the opinion that local programs needed greater support to recycle materials which were being generated at that time. Since then, the amount of materials being generated has increased as has the amount being recycled. However, the development of statewide markets for the recyclable material continues to be substantially lacking.

While the CIWMB's November 14, 2008, news release acknowledges the significant impact of the recent foreign market decline on California's infrastructure, it does not identify what specific actions the CIWMB contemplates in addressing this issue. Instead on November 20, 2008, the CIWMB expressed its support for mandatory commercial recycling

Ms. Margo Brown  
December 18, 2008  
Page 2

to the California Air Resources Board. The CIWMB's position in support of mandatory recycling without addressing the market demand side of the "recycling equation" will further compound the existing problem caused due to lack of adequate market for diverted materials.

The Task Force strongly supports recycling as an important element of our integrated solid waste management system, and recognizes its value in reducing our dependence on landfills. However, recycling efforts focused on collection of materials without developing a strong demand for diverted materials will not ultimately succeed. Therefore, It is recommended that the CIWMB: (1) conduct a life-cycle analysis of all the elements of an integrated solid waste management system with regard to recycling, composting, and conversion technology, (2) reevaluate the current waste management hierarchy, (3) develop and recommend actions (legislative and regulatory) and programs to promote the development of needed markets for diverted materials in California, and (4) update its current position regarding conversion technology to proactively promote these much-needed technologies. Many studies have shown there are synergies between recycling and conversion technology which, if used advantageously, would allow them to complement each other, thus maximizing overall diversion from landfills.

It is imperative that guidance and leadership be provided by the State and by its agencies such as the CIWMB. Working with local jurisdictions, the State can help create strong statewide and regional markets by providing economic incentives and assistance to innovative businesses. The Task Force looks forward to the opportunity to work with CIWMB in regard to this matter.

If 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

DC:

P:\Coscia\Task Force\Letter\_CIWMB develop recycling markets.doc

cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Assembly Speaker Karen Bass  
Senate President Pro Temp Darrell Steinberg  
Cal EPA Secretary, Linda Adams

Ms. Margo Brown  
December 18, 2008  
Page 3

Each Member of the California Integrated Waste Management Board  
Each Member of the California Air Resources Board  
Mark Leary, Executive Director of the California Integrated Waste Management Board  
James Goldstene, Executive Officer of the California Air Resources Board  
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles' Board of Supervisors  
California State Association of Counties  
The League of California Cities  
The League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division  
Each City Mayor in Los Angeles County  
Southern California Association of Governments  
South Bay Cities Council of Governments  
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments  
Gateway Cities Council of Governments  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee  
CARB's Economic and Technology Advancement Advisory Committee