



GAIL FARBER CHAIR
MARGARET CLARK VICE 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

August 5, 2010

Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

SUPPORT FOR ARRA AMENDMENTS TO EXTEND 1603 DIRECT CASH GRANT PROGRAM

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force), I want to express our strong support for your proposed amendments to extend the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) 1603 Direct Cash Grants for renewable energy projects.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, 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.

We applaud President Obama's enactment of ARRA in February 2009 that provided shovel-ready renewable energy projects with funding to begin construction. Opportunities like this spur growth in the green economy and in the long term will reduce our dependence on foreign oil. The ARRA 1603 Direct Cash Grants are set to expire this year; however there are many viable projects left that could still be considered, and much of the funding allocated to the Program has yet to be expended. This indicates there is a need for additional time to develop projects, especially in areas such as California that have complex and lengthy permitting processes. Therefore, the Task Force supports your proposal to extend the construction start date by two years.

In addition to extending the construction start date, we encourage you to extend the *credit termination date* - the end date by which the project must be in service - by two

years as well. Otherwise projects will be under substantial pressure to complete the projects within a constrained timeframe. Also, under the current ARRA program only electricity generation projects are eligible for the 1603 Direct Cash Grants. We urge you to consider expanding the list of projects eligible for these grants to projects that create renewable fuels, such as biomethane, ethanol, biogas, and similar liquid and gaseous energy products. Cleaner and domestically-produced transportation fuels play an important role in national security, addressing climate change, and reducing our dependence on fossil fuels, the critical need for which is highlighted by the ongoing tragedy in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Task Force is currently working with Los Angeles County to facilitate the development of three conversion technology demonstration projects. Each of these projects will utilize non-combustion processes to convert residual municipal solid waste into a variety of products including electricity and biofuels. One project developer will fuel an entire fleet of trash trucks with biomethane generated from the conversion process. Another is considering electricity generation to power the facility operations while providing excess energy to the grid. These are examples of the viable renewable energy projects that could be considered for an ARRA 1603 Direct Cash Grant if it is extended through 2012.

The ARRA 1603 Direct Cash Grants, if extended another two years, would aid in establishing an era of creativity and spur development of environmentally beneficial projects that increase our use of renewable energy. We appreciate your commitment to this effort. If you 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: Each Member of the California Federal Legislative Delegation
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
William Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer, County of Los Angeles
Each Member of the Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Each Member of the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee