



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
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DONALD L. WOLFE  
CHAIRMAN

June 28, 2007

TO: All City Mayors in Los Angeles County

Dear Mayor:

**SENATE BILL 1020 (AMENDED JUNE 26, 2007)  
LETTER OF OPPOSITION REQUESTED**

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force), I am writing to request you **oppose** Senate Bill 1020. SB 1020 would increase the waste diversion mandate imposed on local governments from 50 percent to 60 percent on or before December 21, 2012, and to 75 percent, effective January 1, 2020, without providing any resources to meet this goal.

Just last year, the California Integrated Waste Management Board announced that California had achieved the 50 percent waste reduction mandate, some 17 years after the passage of AB 939. This achievement came after hundreds of millions of dollars in investments by local governments to develop and implement some of the most progressive waste reduction and recycling programs in the country along with the collection and recycling infrastructure to make it successful. By and large, the most cost-effective programs have already been implemented, along with a variety of feasible niche programs in order to meet the waste diversion mandates outlined in AB 939.

Going from 50 percent to 75 percent will require major investments in new programs and more radical changes to the State's solid waste management system. However, SB 1020 does not provide any of the financial or technical resources needed to achieve this higher diversion mandate, and the Task Force has expressed concerns to the author that without those resources, jurisdictions will be unable to meet the new diversion requirements and may be set up for failure.

The Task Force has a long track record of supporting initiatives that reduce the amount of waste disposed in landfills and improve the quality of life for all residents. However, in a letter sent to Senator Alex Padilla on April 19, 2007 (attached), the Task Force opposed SB 1020 for the following reasons: The Bill does not provide local governments the financial and technical resources needed to achieve the higher diversion mandate.

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- The Bill does not address the current deficiencies of the State Diversion Rate Measurement System.
- No cost/benefit analysis has been conducted to evaluate the public health impacts as well as the feasibility and associated costs of increasing the diversion rate mandate.
- The Bill does not provide diversion credit for activities and processes such as conversion of biomass to ethanol and/or other products through the use of conversion technologies.
- The Bill, while it places higher waste diversion mandates with related penalties on local governments, fails to recognize and place any shared responsibilities on state and regional governmental agencies as well as the California University and College systems, school districts, and other special districts.
- The Bill does not place any responsibility on the manufacturing sector for reducing waste and product stewardship.

To date, SB 1020 has sailed through all critical votes with no significant revisions, failing to address even one of the critical issues identified above. SB 1020 would perpetuate the State's current waste diversion rate measurement system and significantly expand the burden placed on local governments without providing any resources to meet this goal. We urge cities throughout the region to express your concerns regarding this legislation.

A draft letter of opposition is attached for your use. If you have any questions, please contact 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

CP/CS:cw

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cc: Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
Each City Recycling Coordinator  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force

Attach.

**SAMPLE LETTER**

\_\_\_\_\_, 2007

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
State Capitol Room 4032  
Sacramento, CA 94249-12345

Dear Senator Padilla:

**SENATE BILL 1020 (AMENDED JUNE 26, 2007)  
STATEWIDE MANDATORY WASTE DIVERSION RATE INCREASE TO 75 PERCENT**

The City of \_\_\_\_\_ opposes Senate Bill 1020 (SB 1020), which would increase the waste diversion mandate imposed on local governments from 50 to 60 percent on or before December 21, 2012, and to 75 percent, effective January 1, 2020. SB 1020 would place higher waste diversion mandates with related penalties on local governments, without providing the necessary financial and technical resources in order to achieve an increased diversion mandate.

Local governments across the State have invested millions of dollars into the current recycling infrastructure, the development and implementation of waste reduction programs, and the mathematical accounting and documentation required to meet the current 50 percent mandate. Subsequent diversion increases will require major investment in new programs and more radical changes to the solid waste management system in California, including changes to the mathematically oriented Diversion Rate Measurement System so that the system fairly assesses whether a jurisdiction's level of program implementation is adequate and appropriate.

It is imperative that, prior to additional increases in the waste diversion mandate, the State perform a cost/benefit and lifecycle analysis to evaluate the feasibility, costs to local government, and life cycle public health impacts of such an increase. The State must also reassess the current solid waste management hierarchy in light of new and emerging conversion technologies that can produce energy, fuels and products from waste while diverting materials from landfill disposal. Such an analysis can guide the State in providing the necessary financial and technical resources needed to achieve a higher diversion mandate and implementing a long-overdue reconsideration of the current Diversion Rate Measurement System and waste management hierarchy.

**SAMPLE LETTER**

While the City of \_\_\_\_\_ shares the goal of reducing waste disposal and improving our environment, we urge you to first address the issues raised above, and work with local government to provide the resources we need to be successful. Therefore, the City of \_\_\_\_\_ opposes SB 1020. Should you have any questions, please contact \_\_\_\_\_.

Sincerely,

Mayor, City of \_\_\_\_\_

cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata  
Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez  
Each Member of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
Each Member of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Each Member of the California Integrated Waste Management Board  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County State Legislative Delegation  
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors  
League of California Cities  
Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force