



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

June 21, 2007

The Honorable Patricia Wiggins  
State Capitol Room 4081  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Wiggins:

**SENATE BILL 697 (AMENDED APRIL 19, 2007)  
INCREASING CALTRANS' USE OF COMPOST**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Senate Bill 697 (SB 697), which among other things, would require the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to develop a ten-year plan to increase the use of mulch, compost, and mulch products in the State's highway landscape maintenance programs by January 1, 2009.

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.

Current law requires Caltrans to use compost in place of, or supplement, petroleum-based commercial fertilizers in the State's highway landscape maintenance program.

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SB 697, if enacted, would require Caltrans to develop a 10-year plan to increase the use of mulch and compost, and report on the use of compost and other landscaping materials for the previous five years on or before April 1, 2009. By requiring Caltrans to increase the use of compost and mulch products in maintenance projects, the State would enhance not only the market for compost and mulch, but also the environment along State highway projects in a cost effective manner. Compost can provide many of the benefits of petroleum-based commercial fertilizers and provide for quicker vegetation and erosion control, while keeping organic materials from being disposed of in landfills.

Therefore the Task Force **supports** SB 697. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,

*Margaret Clark*

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: Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez  
Each Member of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation  
California Integrated Waste Management Board  
California Department of Transportation  
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors  
Each City Mayor in the County of Los Angeles  
California State Association of Counties  
League of California Cities  
League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division  
Southern California Association of Governments  
Solid Waste Association of North America  
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments  
South Bay Cities Council of Governments  
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force