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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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May 4 2006

The Honorable Dean Florez
State Capitol Room 5061
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Florez:

**SENATE BILL 926 (AMENDED MARCH 21, 2006)
REQUIRING AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR A SOLID WASTE FACILITY
PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION ON A LOCAL BALLOT INITIATIVE**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports if amended** Senate Bill 926 (SB 926), which would prohibit the placement of a solid waste facility project on a local ballot initiative unless an environmental impact report (EIR) is prepared and certified.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 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. Consistent with these responsibilities and to ensure a coordinated and cost-effective 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.

Currently, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires all proposed projects, including solid waste facilities, to complete an EIR or other appropriate environmental document. This CEQA document must identify all potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed facility and describe how these impacts will be mitigated. However, CEQA does not require a CEQA document to be completed prior to the placement of a project on a local ballot initiative for approval.

SB 926, if enacted, would address this issue by requiring that an EIR be prepared and certified by the county in which the proposed solid waste facility would be located before the proposal can be placed on a local ballot initiative for approval. This provision would better inform voters of a proposed facility's environmental impacts prior to considering the project. However, it should be noted that not all solid waste facilities require an EIR under

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CEQA. In addition, we believe that the host jurisdiction and not the county should be the lead agency for certifying a CEQA document. Therefore, we respectfully request that the following modifications be made to clarify the intent of the bill:

- Replace the term "environmental impact report" with "appropriate CEQA document" throughout the bill.
- Replace the term "county" with "host jurisdiction" in the proposed subsections 21080.6(b) and (c).

With these two changes incorporated, the Task Force **supports** SB 926. 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
Councilmember, City of Rosemead

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cc: Governor Schwarzenegger
Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata
Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez
Each Member of the Assembly Local Government Committee
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation
Each Member of the California Integrated Waste Management Board
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
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Solid Waste Association of North America
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force