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LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
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May 8, 2023

The Honorable Chris R. Holden, Chair  
Assembly Appropriations Committee  
1021 O Street, Room 8220  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Holden:

**SUPPORT – ASSEMBLY BILL 324 (PACHECO) AS AMENDED ON MARCH 27, 2023  
GAS CORPORATIONS: RENEWABLE GAS PROCUREMENT**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) is pleased to **support** Assembly Bill 324 (AB 324), as amended on March 27, 2023.

The proposed legislation, if enacted, would require the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) to open a new proceeding, or a new phase of an existing proceeding, to consider establishing procurement goals for renewable hydrogen and consider requiring each gas corporation and core transport agent to annually procure a proportionate share of renewable hydrogen to meet those goals. Similar to Senate Bill (SB) 1440 (Hueso, 2018), the bill would require the commission to make specified findings before establishing renewable hydrogen procurement targets or goals. The amount of renewable hydrogen, that each gas utility would be required to procure would likely be based on the size of its gas system and the amount of natural gas that it sells.

AB 324 would help California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by authorizing the CPUC to facilitate development and implementation of a clean renewable energy source, renewable hydrogen. Renewable hydrogen, as defined per AB 324, includes the production processes that uses water, biomass, digester gas, diverted organic waste, or landfill gas. "Green hydrogen" is produced using only renewable feedstock such as biomass, renewable natural gas (RNG), or water. Biomethane gas is a methane-rich renewable natural gas that is produced from diverted organic waste, such as food scraps, manure, and sewage. Biomethane gas is a carbon-neutral fuel, which means that it does not produce any net greenhouse gas emissions when it is used to make renewable

electricity or heated with steam to generate the hydrogen in the steam-methane reforming process.

Establishing procurement markets for renewable hydrogen creates a procurement market for renewable biomethane gas and further incentivizes the use of organic waste feedstock to generate energy that would otherwise emit methane in landfills. Jurisdictions are looking for ways to comply with regulations established by SB 1383 (Lara, 2016). These requirements include closing the statewide shortfall in organic waste processing capacity and meeting targets to procure the byproducts of organic waste processing. Development or expansion of infrastructure to process organic waste and generate renewable biomethane gas will not only help provide a source for renewable hydrogen generation, it also will provide jurisdictions with a pathway to meet established requirements to procure recovered organic waste products.

Furthermore, AB 324 would help California to meet its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 as mandated by the California Global Warming Solutions Act (SB 32), (Pavley, 2016) while continuously creating jobs in California. The production and use of RNG/Biomethane to generate renewable hydrogen creates jobs in a variety of sectors, including agriculture, waste management, and transportation.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939), 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.

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Based on the foregoing, the Task Force **supports** AB 324. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer, a member of the Task Force, at [MikeMohajer@gmail.com](mailto:MikeMohajer@gmail.com) or at (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



Sam Shammass, Vice-Chair  
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/  
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

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cc: Assembly Member (Garcia, Carrillo)  
Senator (Bradford, Dahle)  
Each Member and staff of the Assembly Appropriations Committee  
California State Association of Counties  
League of California Cities – Los Angeles County Division  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
Fesia A. Davenport, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer  
Gateway Cities Council of Governments  
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments  
South Bay Cities Council of Governments  
Westside Cities Council of Governments  
Each City Mayor and City Manager in the County of Los Angeles  
Each City Recycling Coordinator in the County of Los Angeles  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/  
Integrated Waste Management Task Force