




MARK PESTRELLA, PE, CHAIR  
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LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
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June 4, 2025

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Mark Pestrella, PE, Chair   
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Committee/  
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

**REQUEST FOR COUNTY ADVOCACY TO SUPPORT  
ASSEMBLY BILL 70 (AGUIAR-CURRY) SOLID WASTE ORGANIC WASTE:  
DIVERSION BIOMETHANE**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) is writing to express its strong support for Assembly Bill (AB) 70 (Aguiar-Curry, 2025). AB 70 would define pyrolysis as the thermal decomposition of material at elevated temperatures in the absence or near absence of oxygen. This bill would also direct the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to, no later than January 1, 2027, consider pipeline biomethane converted exclusively from organic waste compliant with existing Senate Bill (SB) 1383 (2016, Lara) regulations concerning solid waste diversion.

The Task Force appreciates the action of Los Angeles County (County) to support legislation that encourages and incentivizes clean manufacturing, and proposals that promote projects that reduce environmental pollutants such as AB 70. The Task Force urges the County Board of Supervisors to engage in supporting this legislation as it would integrate pyrolysis as a viable technology for organic waste management, recognize the resulting pipeline biomethane as a tool for achieving the ambitious diversion goals set by SB 1383, and offer local jurisdictions an additional pathway to meet their organic waste diversion targets.

AB 70 could have a significant impact on organic waste management in Los Angeles County. By formally defining pyrolysis as the thermal decomposition of material at elevated temperatures in the absence or near absence of oxygen, the bill provides much-needed regulatory clarity. This definition allows local jurisdictions to integrate pyrolysis as a viable technology for organic waste diversion, which would help meet the ambitious targets set by Senate Bill (SB) 1383. Additionally, recognizing pipeline biomethane derived from organic waste as compliant with existing diversion regulations encourages investment in environmentally sustainable waste-to-energy solutions. These

Each Supervisor  
June 4, 2025  
Page 2

measures collectively support LA County's efforts to reduce dependence on landfill disposal, improve air quality, and create new economic opportunities in clean manufacturing and renewable energy.

Defining pyrolysis also ensures that jurisdictions and businesses have a clear framework to develop and implement waste conversion projects. Unlike incineration, pyrolysis operates with minimal oxygen, reducing harmful emissions and offering a cleaner alternative for processing organic waste. By establishing pyrolysis as a recognized technology, AB 70 fosters innovation and encourages municipalities to explore waste-to-energy strategies that contribute to climate action goals. If implemented, the bill could expand options for Los Angeles County by adding another mechanism through which materials can be repurposed rather than disposed of and support the economic development of environmentally viable technologies.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939), the Task Force is responsible for coordinating the development of all major solid waste planning documents prepared for the County and the 88 cities in the 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 the 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, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, City of Los Angeles, waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

If you have any questions, please contact Jocelyn Stark at (626) 458-6521 or [JStark@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:JStark@pw.lacounty.gov).

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Attach.

cc: Chief Executive Office (Fesia A. Davenport)  
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/  
Integrated Waste Management Task Force



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

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**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
Fesia A. Davenport

**ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
Angela Ovalle

**Legislative Summary / Findings**  
**AB 70 (Aguiar-Curry) – As Amended on March 11, 2025**  
**Solid Waste: Organic Waste Diversion: Biomethane**

**Summary:** This bill would define pyrolysis as the thermal decomposition of material at elevated temperatures in the absence or near absence of oxygen. This bill would also direct CalRecycle to, no later than January 1, 2027, consider pipeline biomethane converted exclusively from organic waste compliant with existing regulations concerning solid waste diversion.

**Commission Recommendation:** None.

**CEO Legislative Affairs Findings:** There is Board-adopted policy to support proposals that support procedural innovations or alternative methods to support County-led services, and goals.

However, AB 70 may be contrary to existing Board-adopted policy related to proposals that reduce environmental pollutants.

**Bill Status:** AB 70 is schedule for consideration in the Assembly Appropriations Committee on April 9, 2025.

April 8, 2025