



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
P.O. BOX 1460, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460
www.lacountyiswmtf.org

DONALD L. WOLFE
CHAIRMAN

February 2, 2006

The Honorable Barbara S. Matthews
State Capitol Room 5155
Sacramento, CA 94249-2017

Dear Assembly Member Matthews:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 1090
CONVERSION TECHNOLOGIES**

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force), I would like to thank you once again for introducing Assembly Bill 1090, an important milestone in the future development of conversion technologies in California. Conversion technologies are processes capable of converting residual post-recycled municipal solid waste and other organic feedstocks into useful products, green fuels, and renewable energy. It was these benefits that led the Task Force to support AB 1090 shortly after it was introduced last year, and to consistently promote the benefits of these technologies (see attached letters).

With the array of benefits that conversion technologies offer, we were disheartened that the bill was modified on January 4 and 9, 2006, significantly altering the bill's original language and intent. Understandably, the Task Force supported your subsequent decision to pull AB 1090 from further legislative consideration, since the modifications eliminated key factors that garnered our initial support. These include:

- Providing diversion credit for solid waste beneficially recovered through conversion technologies
- Identifying conversion technologies as beneficial use technologies
- Appropriately placing conversion technologies in the waste management hierarchy in relation to their environmental and societal benefits
- Correcting technically inaccurate definitions which stifled their development

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

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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.

The Task Force has been a consistent supporter of conversion technologies for nearly a decade, working to increase local support and awareness, as well as promoting scientific research and development of conversion technologies through a variety of means, including supporting legislation that promotes these technologies. We will continue to support your efforts to advance future legislative proposals benefiting conversion technologies. As negotiations take place in Sacramento for new legislative proposals, it is imperative to our members that we advance those key factors mentioned above, since our support for proposed legislation will be prefaced on their inclusion.

Recognizing the pivotal benefits of conversion technologies by defining them separately and appropriately within the waste management hierarchy recognizes that these technologies have a future role in the management of solid waste, as is the case in Europe and Japan. At no cost to State or local governments, providing diversion credit allows these technologies to compete with other beneficial resource management options on a level playing field while insuring the public health and safety and the environment. With national attention focusing on the need to reduce our dependence on fossil oil, and California's efforts to reduce our dependence on landfilling, we have the opportunity to demonstrate leadership in utilizing new technologies to meet our future needs in a sustainable and environmentally preferable manner.

Your contributions to the future of conversion technologies are very much appreciated, and we look forward to collaborating with you on this important issue in the future. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (626) 569-2100 or your staff may contact Mr. 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
Councilmember, City of Rosemead

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cc: Governor Schwarzenegger
Governor's Office of Legislative Affairs
Governor's Los Angeles Field Office
Special Assistant to the Governor for Energy and Environmental Technologies
(Terry Tamminen)
Assembly Member Russ Bogh
Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Alan C. Lloyd)
Each Member of the California Integrated Waste Management Board
Secretary of California Department of Food and Agriculture (A.G. Kawamura)
Each Member of the California Energy Commission
Each Member of the Los Angeles County State Legislative Delegation
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Federal Legislative Delegation
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
Each City Mayor in the County of Los Angeles
Federal Office of Science and Technology Policy (Robie Roy)
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities
League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division
Southern California Association of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Solid Waste Association of North America
Each Member of the City of Los Angeles' Ad Hoc RENEW LA Committee
County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
University of California, Riverside
University of California, Davis
California State Pipe Trades Council
California State Association of Electrical Workers
Western States Council of Sheet Metal Workers
California Rice Commission
California Refuse Removal Council
Bioenergy Producers' Association
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Each Member of the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee of the
Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force



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March 31, 2005

The Honorable Barbara S. Matthews
State Capitol
Room 5155
Sacramento, CA 94249-0017

Dear Assembly Member Matthews:

ASSEMBLY BILL 1090: CONVERSION TECHNOLOGIES: DIVERSION

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force supports Assembly Bill 1090 as introduced February 22, 2005, relating to Solid Waste: Diversion: Conversion.

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. Consistent with these responsibilities, and to ensure a coordinated and cost-effective solid waste management system, the Task Force addresses issues impacting the solid waste management system throughout the County. 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.

AB 1090 would allow for the reprioritization of the waste management hierarchy to include conversion technologies and redefine these technologies more accurately. This bill would also provide jurisdictions that utilize conversion technology facilities with diversion credit towards meeting the State's 50 percent waste diversion mandate, an important incentive to promote the development of these technologies.

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Currently, State law (AB 939) requires cities and counties in California to reduce the amount of waste disposed in landfills and incinerators, and each County to assure adequate disposal capacity for the residual solid waste remaining over a rolling 15-year planning period. In a report released by the California Integrated Waste Management Board in December 2004, Californians disposed of over 40 million tons of solid waste in 2003, approximately two million tons more than in 1998. Of the 40 million tons of post-recycled waste materials disposed in landfills, over 75 percent consisted of organic waste materials (including agricultural waste) that can be recovered for beneficial use instead of being landfilled. The Task Force strongly believes that the development of conversion technology facilities can assist jurisdictions in meeting both requirements as well as reducing our needs for more landfills.

On March 15, 2005, the Waste Board approved a comprehensive report which found that conversion technologies "can result in substantial environmental benefits for California," including reduction in landfill disposal, production of renewable energy, reduced dependence on fossil fuels, and a reduction of greenhouse gases, all while complementing California's recycling infrastructure and complying with strict environmental safeguards.

Conversion technologies can address not only the State's growing solid waste management needs but also California's demand for locally produced, clean and renewable energy, fuels, and additive replacements for MTBE such as ethanol. Therefore we encourage the Legislature to clarify any conflicting statutes in order to ensure that these technologies are considered renewable energy sources. The State of California has established ambitious goals to increase our use of renewable energy within the State. California is rich in biomass feedstocks that could be put to better use by converting them into usable products, clean burning fuels, and renewable energy.

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Therefore, the Task Force **supports** AB 1090 and further supports any future enhancements to the legislation that would assure conversion technologies are considered renewable energy sources. Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



Michael Miller, Vice-Chair
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force and
Councilmember, City of West Covina

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cc: Governor's Office of Legislative Affairs
Governor's Los Angeles Field Office
Cabinet Secretary (Terry Tamminen)
Assembly Member Loni Hancock, Chair, Natural Resources Committee
Each Member of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Each Member of the Assembly Agriculture Committee
Assembly Member Fran Pavley
Assembly Member Christine Kehoe
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation
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
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League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division
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Solid Waste Association of North America
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Force



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December 21, 2005

The Honorable Loni Hancock
Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
State Capitol Room 4126
Sacramento, CA 94249-0014

Dear Chairwoman Hancock:

**COMMITTEE HEARING ON ASSEMBLY BILL 1090
AND CONVERSION TECHNOLOGIES**

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force), I would like to thank you for convening a special hearing on Assembly Bill 1090 (AB 1090, Matthews introduced February 22, 2005) and conversion technologies in the City of Los Angeles on November 16, 2005. This hearing marked an important milestone in the future of solid waste management and conversion technology in California. We are excited to see mounting data that reaffirms the life-cycle benefits of conversion technologies. It is clear that a consensus has developed on the need to revise current State statutes to designate and accurately define conversion technologies apart from landfill disposal. That is why we hope to see unanimous approval of AB 1090 out of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, so that it can be considered by the full legislature.

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.

Conversion technologies have the ability to revolutionize solid waste management in California, for a variety of reasons. They are capable of converting a liability (waste) into a useful resource, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other criteria pollutants, reducing dependence on landfilling and finite fossil fuels, and enhancing recycling efforts, all while exceeding California's strict environmental standards. As a leading panel of experts on local solid waste management issues, including our conversion technology specialists, the Task Force would like to emphasize the following demonstrated benefits of conversion technologies as reinforced by the testimony of scientists and technical experts participating in the hearing:

1. **Conversion technologies would decrease net air pollutant emissions and greenhouse gases** – Scientific studies, including those conducted by the Universities of California at Davis and Riverside under contract with the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), have shown that conversion technologies will decrease air pollutant emissions and greenhouse gases that would otherwise result from disposal. Tests conducted at four pilot conversion technology facilities in the United States have shown that emissions from conversion technologies are far below established emission criteria in the U.S., California, Germany, and Japan.
2. **Conversion technologies would manage materials that are not practically recyclable** – Not all solid waste currently disposed can be recycled or composted. Contaminated organic materials, higher number plastics and other materials, which cannot be recycled or processed in an economically feasible manner, are ideal feedstock for conversion technologies.
3. **Development of conversion technology facilities would create an incentive to increase recycling** – Market impact studies have shown that conversion technologies are designed to process a post-recycled waste stream. Moreover, conversion technologies function better when recyclables such as glass and metal have been removed *prior* to conversion – thus conversion technologies would increase recycling by further extracting recyclables remaining after initial processing. That is why jurisdictions throughout California, including our Task Force, propose that conversion technology facilities process only feedstock remaining after recyclables have been source-separated or extracted at a materials recovery facility. Such pre-processing would have numerous additional life-cycle benefits, including:
 - reducing the need to transport post-recycled waste to disposal by up to 90 percent thereby reducing congestion, emissions, and other impacts
 - taking advantage of appropriate zoning already available at MRFs, which

- corresponds with our support of environmental justice
 - making use on site of readily available post-recycled feedstock that would otherwise be shipped for disposal
 - creating synergy for incentives to additional recycling, since MRFs can process and market additional recyclable materials pulled from the waste stream due to conversion pre-processing
4. **Conversion technologies are an effective and environmentally preferable alternative to landfilling** – Based on the recent report released by the California Integrated Waste Management Board, conversion technologies are environmentally preferable to land disposal practices. While economically the cost of utilizing conversion technologies may exceed current landfill disposal rates, disposal costs are expected to increase as landfill capacity declines within the coming decade. Development of conversion technologies is needed now to provide decision makers with environmentally preferable and economically viable options for the management of post-recycled waste materials.
 5. **Conversion technologies would produce renewable energy and green fuels, thereby reducing our dependence on foreign oil** – Conversion technologies produce fuel and/or energy. By utilizing conversion technologies, California can develop clean, locally-produced renewable energy and green fuels, including ethanol, biodiesel, and electricity, which can be used to promote energy independence. Benefits from this independence include insulating California residents from market fluctuations, and avoiding environmental impacts associated with the extraction, refining, and transportation of fuels.
 6. **Conversion technologies would produce high-level “green collar jobs” and spur the economy** – Conversion technologies would create new, high tech jobs throughout the State and contribute to the local economy by creating new advanced infrastructure. For decades, California has led the rest of the nation by developing high-tech jobs based on new technologies, and has been a leader in new policies to protect the environment. By creating an environment that allows conversion technologies to develop on a level playing field, based on their relative economic and environmental impacts and benefits, California would lead the nation in solid waste management technologies, with far-reaching dividends for our future economic progress.

Jurisdictions around the country, such as New York, Washington, and Tennessee, are researching conversion technologies as a viable and environmentally preferable alternative to incineration and landfilling. However, in California, current technically inaccurate

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statutes discourage the research and development of these much-needed alternatives to traditional waste disposal. Without any expenditure of public funds, AB 1090 would create a level playing field for conversion technologies, allowing them to compete in the private sector with other solid waste management options based on their economic viability as well as their relative environmental impacts and benefits.

Once again, we would like to thank you for holding this hearing in the City of Los Angeles, giving local jurisdictions, members of the public, and other stakeholders an additional opportunity to be a part of the legislative process. Because we are confident in the capabilities of conversion technologies and wish to promote their environmental benefits, the Task Force is implementing a plan to facilitate the development of a demonstration conversion technology facility in Southern California, and will be widely publicizing the results of these efforts as they progress. We urge you to move AB 1090 out of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, so that California can realize the benefits of these technologies. If we view waste as a resource and are open to the myriad of possibilities that can arise from the use of advanced technologies, we can make significant gains in improving the quality of life and the environment in California.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (626) 569-2100 or your staff may contact Mr. 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
Councilmember, City of Rosemead

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cc: Governor's Office of Legislative Affairs
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University of California, Davis
California State Pipe Trades Council
California State Association of Electrical Workers
Western States Council of Sheet Metal Workers
California Rice Commission (Paul Buttner)
California Refuse Removal Council
Assistant Director for Space and Aeronautics (Robie Samanta Roy)