



DONALD L. WOLFE
CHAIRMAN

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

July 6, 2006

The Honorable Bonnie Garcia
State Capitol Room 2002
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Garcia:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 1966 (AMENDED MAY 31, 2006)
CAPITAL INVESTMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) has taken the position **oppose unless amended** on Assembly Bill 1966 (AB 1966). AB 1966 would allow electricity producing power plants that utilize various renewable energy resources to qualify for Capital Investment Incentive funds. However, the latest Bill amendment specifically deletes municipal solid waste conversion technologies from qualifying for this incentive.

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 with a combined population in excess of 10 million. 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, State law allows cities and counties to pay qualified manufacturing facilities a "capital investment incentive amount" to develop facilities within their jurisdiction. AB 1966 would expand the definition of a qualified manufacturing facility to include electricity generating power plants that use renewable resources, such as solar, geothermal, and wind power. However, the Bill's May 31, 2006, amendments eliminated facilities utilizing municipal solid waste conversion from qualifying under this program. We believe this amendment should be reversed.

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Sections 25741 and 25806 of the Public Resources Code classify municipal solid waste conversion technologies as a renewable energy resource. Conversion technologies are processes capable of converting residual post-recycled municipal solid waste and other organic feedstocks into clean, renewable energy. Conversion technologies, already popular in Europe and Japan, would not only reduce our dependence on landfills but also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants, reduce dependence on foreign oil, and create local, sustainable "green collar" jobs. In this era of high fuel costs, energy disruptions, air quality concerns, and economic uncertainty, California needs conversion technologies more than ever.

The amendment of May 31, 2006, would make AB 1966 inconsistent with existing State law, and limit a potential renewable resource from qualifying to receive any capital investment incentive funds, thereby undermining the stated goal of this Bill. Therefore, the Task Force **opposes AB 1966 unless its amended**. If you have any questions, please 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
Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata
Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez
Each Member of the Senate Local Government Committee
Assembly Member John J. Benoit
Assembly Member Shirley Horton
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Assembly Member Audra Strickland
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
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
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force