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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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May 1, 2006

The Honorable Cindy Montanez
State Capitol Room 3013
Sacramento, CA 94249-0039

Dear Assembly Member Montanez:

**ASSEMBLY BILL AB 2296 (AMENDED MARCH 27, 2006)
CLOSURE AND POSTCLOSURE MAINTENANCE OF SOLID WASTE LANDFILLS**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Assembly Bill 2296 (AB 2296) which strengthens State law to require owners/operators of solid waste landfills to provide for the facility maintenance in perpetuity or as long as the waste no longer poses a threat to public health and safety or the environment.

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.

California municipal solid waste landfills play a vital role in managing the variety of wastes generated by residents and businesses on a daily basis. They operate under the most stringent environmental standards in the country in order to protect public health and safety and the environment. However, once a landfill closes, it is crucial that a financial assurance mechanism be in place. This financial assurance would protect the community and environment from any unforeseen ill effects of the landfill, and safeguard taxpayers from assuming the financial burden of fulfilling the closure, postclosure, and maintenance activities in the event the landfill owner/operator defaults on his obligations.

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Concerns regarding this important issue were recently highlighted in a report prepared by the California Legislative Analyst's Office entitled "Strengthening Public Safety of Waste Facilities and Surface Mines," dated April 2006. The Report found that "even though the owner/operator of solid waste facilities is generally legally responsible for maintaining a site after closure without a time limitation, financial resources to do so may not be available without a financial assurance in place. For this reason, the California Integrated Waste Management Board estimates that the state could face a \$1.8 billion exposure for the ongoing maintenance of closed solid waste landfills by mid-century."

AB 2296, if enacted, would address this deficiency in State law to ensure public health and safety and protection of the environment. Therefore, the Task Force **supports** AB 2296, and applauds your efforts to ensure that solid waste landfills do not pose an environmental health risk to future generations and the environment. 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
Council Member, 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 Appropriation 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
Each City Recycling Coordinator