



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

May 17, 2007

The Honorable Betty Karnette
State Capitol Room 2136
Sacramento, CA 94249-0054

Dear Assembly Member Karnette:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 820 (AMENDED APRIL 9, 2007)
POLYSTYRENE BAN AT STATE FACILITIES**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Assembly Bill 820 (AB 820), which would prohibit state facilities from selling, using, or distributing expanded polystyrene (EPS) food containers on and after January 1, 2009.

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 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 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, 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 820 would ban state facilities, beginning January 1, 2009, from selling, possessing or distributing expanded polystyrene food containers. The disposal of expanded polystyrene food containers has resulted in several environmental and solid waste landfill capacity problems. Due to its disposable and lightweight nature, EPS often ends up littering communities, obstructing storm drains, and harming marine life. At present, numerous local governments, including the Cities of Calabasas, Malibu, Santa Monica, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, Huntington Beach, San Francisco, and the County of Ventura, have

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adopted policies to prohibit the purchase and use of polystyrene food containers at their facilities -- and in some cases, all food service establishments within their jurisdiction. As a result, these communities have effectively reduced the amount of EPS disposed or littered onto our beaches, waterways and other areas.

The handling of EPS drains State and local governments in cleanup costs and time spent. Along with litter reduction efforts and educational outreach, the Task Force believes relying less on EPS, while encouraging more environmentally friendly food container options, can be a positive step toward decreasing visual blight and protecting our natural resources and open spaces. Therefore, the Task Force **supports** AB 820. 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
Council Member, City of Rosemead

VJ/CS:

cc: Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez
Each Member of the Assembly Appropriations Committee
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation
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
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
Solid Waste Association of North America
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force