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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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June 28, 2012

The Honorable Joe Simitian, Chair
Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol, Room 2080
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Simitian:

**OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED ASSEMBLY BILL 2196 (AMENDED JUNE 20, 2012)
RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **opposes unless amended** Assembly Bill 2196 (AB 2196), which would, among other things, impose certain requirements with respect to the eligibility of biomethane under the State's Renewable Portfolio Standard Program (RPS). Unfortunately, by referencing current scientific inaccuracies in State law, the bill would discourage the utilization of State resources and inhibit the development of renewable energy-generating conversion technologies.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939 [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 the 88 cities in Los Angeles County with a combined population in excess of ten million. Consistent with these responsibilities and to ensure a coordinated, 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, 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 is supportive of the authors' effort to increase the utilization of the State's natural resources for the purpose of local renewable energy production. However, the Bill's intent is unnecessarily limited by basing the definition of eligible renewable energy-generating facilities that convert municipal solid waste (MSW) residuals into renewable energy or biofuels as well as to define "biomethane" on Public Resources Code (PRC) 25741. The Task Force has on numerous occasions taken efforts to express our concern that this section of the PRC has, among other things, limited the utilization of the State's resources.

Public Resource Code 25741 has established scientifically inaccurate standards for the conversion of MSW residuals in renewable energy. These standards are not applied to any other energy-generating technology or manufacturing process in the State including other technologies eligible for RPS program credit. The standards prohibit any emissions, a standard which no energy production technology can meet or has been required to meet. The standards set forth in this section are identical to the State's definition of "gasification" contained in PRC 40117, which is also scientifically inaccurate and actually describes pyrolysis, another MSW conversion process. This definition prohibits gasification technologies from using air or oxygen in the process, a restriction that serves no environmental benefit and unnecessarily prevents proven and beneficial renewable energy-generating technologies from receiving RPS program credit.

Under these standards and definitions, many conversion technologies are required to follow a more rigorous permitting process than required for the siting, permitting, and construction of a major solid waste landfill. As illogical as this is, these standards have been perpetuated in State law for many years, substantially hindering advancement in the State's energy production, economy, and solid waste management. As many parts of world have utilized these technologies, our State has been left behind due to problematic regulations that discourage investors from pursuing projects in our State.

We respectfully request the bill be amended to address the inaccuracies in PRC 25741. This would help foster investment within the State for the development of renewable energy projects. This would not only help the State meet many environmental goals such as those set by AB 32 and AB 341, but create a new sector of green-collar jobs and boost the local economy.

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For these reasons, the Task Force **opposes** AB 2196 **unless it is amended** to lift the unreasonable and unscientific barriers in PRC 25741 and 40177. Moreover, the Task Force is **opposed** to Assembly Bill 1900, which previously contained the same references discussed above and is now double-joined with this Bill. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or 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

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cc: Assembly Member Mike Gatto
Assembly Member Wesley Chesbro
Assembly Member Nancy Skinner
Each member of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
San Fernando Valley Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
Westside Cities Council of Governments
Each City Mayor and City Manager in the County of Los Angeles
Each Member of the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force