



GAIL FARBER, CHAIR
MARGARET CLARK, VICE - CHAIR

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

September 6, 2016

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE – ASSEMBLY BILL 2313 (ENROLLED AUGUST 31, 2016) RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS: MONETARY INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR BIOMETHANE PROJECTS: PIPELINE INFRASTRUCTURE

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) respectfully requests your signature on Assembly Bill 2313 (AB 2313). If enacted, AB 2313, among other things, would require the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to increase the funding apportioned to the monetary incentive program for individual biomethane projects, from \$1,500,000 to \$3,000,000, with the exception of dairy cluster biomethane projects which would be increased to \$5,000,000, and authorize the use of incentive payments for interconnection costs and costs incurred for gathering lines for transport of biogas to a centralized processing facility for the project. This bill would also require the CPUC to consider options to promote in-state production and distribution of biomethane, including whether to allow recovery in rates of the costs of investments relative to installation of utility infrastructure for interconnection to biomethane sources, while ensuring that the investments are prudent and reasonable, and provide a direct benefit to all ratepayers.

There are a multitude of environmental benefits associated with the production of biomethane, which if enacted, the proposed legislation would promote. Biomethane has much lower carbon intensity than natural gas derived from fossil fuels. The use of biomethane for the production of transportation fuels would decrease greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the transportation sector, which the State Air Resources Board estimated to account for approximately 37 percent of the State's aggregate emissions in 2013. Unlike natural gas, biomethane is carbon neutral; under certain conditions, it can even be carbon negative. Its use would also decrease dependency on fossil fuels used for powering industrial equipment, increase the usage of low carbon transportation fuels, and reduce disposal costs of organic waste. Most notably, biomethane production would reduce methane emissions from the disposed solid wastes, especially organics. Methane is a short-lived climate pollutant with a climate change impact

25 times greater than carbon dioxide, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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 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 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, 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.

Based on the foregoing, the Task Force supports AB 2313, and respectfully requests your signature on this legislation. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer, a Member 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

CA:kk

P:\epub\EnvAff\EA\TF\TF\Letters\2016\September\AB2313RequestSignature.doc

cc: Assembly Member Das Williams
Martha Guzman-Aceves, Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
League of California Cities – Los Angeles County Division
Each member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Sachi A. Hamai, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities 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 City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force