



GAIL FARBER, CHAIR
MARGARET CLARK, VICE - CHAIR

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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April 12, 2016

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
1020 N Street, Room 164
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Assembly Gonzalez:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 2396 (INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 18, 2016)
SOLID WASTE: ANNUAL REPORTS**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **opposes unless amended** and **supports if amended** Assembly Bill 2396 (AB 2396). This bill would require each state agency to include in their annual reports to the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) a summary of the state agency's compliance with requirements related mandatory commercial recycling as established pursuant to AB 341 (2011, Chesbro) and AB 1826 (2014, Chesbro). The Task Force supports requiring state agencies to report on the state's efforts to divert and recycle increased waste, however, the Task Force is strongly opposed to the provision in this bill which would remove the ability for counties to be reimbursed for activities related to AB 876 (Chapter 593, 2015 State Statutes)

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 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.

The Task Force is supportive of efforts which hold state agencies accountable for statewide efforts to significantly reduce landfilled solid waste. AB 341 and AB 1826 were major legislative milestones for California, and as jurisdictions, businesses,

and residents grapple to comply with the requirements, state agencies ought to be required to do the same.

During the first year of the 2015/2016 legislative session, AB 876 was signed into law and requires counties to determine, on a countywide basis, organic waste generation and capacity to process the waste by utilization of acceptable processes pursuant to CalRecycle's guidelines of AB 1826 for a 15-year time-frame. Information from these exercises needs to be included in each county's Annual Report to CalRecycle. While the Task Force finds value in this information, these activities are extremely costly to undertake as a result of CalRecycle's adopted Guidelines which are significantly more detailed than AB 876's requirements and those which would have been allowed under the California Regulatory process. As a result of the Guidelines, the specified requirements are very time-consuming labor intensive processes which require counties to undergo studies, calculations, coordination with cities throughout their respective counties, and more.

AB 876 had language which would allow the possibility for counties to be reimbursed for activities required pursuant therein if the Commission on State Mandates determined that those requirements were mandated by the state. It is very clear to the Task Force that the requirements are indeed state mandates and counties should be reimbursed for the required activities due to a lack of any Regulatory Process conducted by CalRecycle. This is why the Task Force is extremely opposed to SECTION 2 of AB 2396 since it would remove the possibility for Counties, such as Los Angeles County with 89 jurisdictions, to be reimbursed for performing the mandated activities of AB 876, as expanded by the CalRecycle adopted Guidelines, on an otherwise very good bill. That single line in AB 2396 will potentially cost counties millions throughout the state. The Task Force respectfully request deletion of this provision and allow the Commission of State Mandates to carry-out their legislative requirement established pursuant to AB 876.

For the above reasons, the Task Force **opposes unless amended, support if amended** AB 2396. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



Margaret Clark, Vice-Chair
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste management Task Force and
Mayor, City of Rosemead

GA:kk

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez

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cc: Assembly Member Kevin McCarty
Each Member of the Assembly Appropriations Committee
Jennifer Swenson, Assembly Appropriations Committee Consultant
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities (Los Angeles County Division)
Each member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
Westside Cities Council of Governments
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force