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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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June 24, 2019

The Honorable Benjamin Allen, Chair
Senate Committee on Environmental Quality
State Capitol, Room 2205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Allen:

**SUPPORT IF AMENDED – ASSEMBLY BILL 296 (COOLEY) AS AMENDED ON
MAY 1, 2019 – CLIMATE CHANGE: CLIMATE INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM:
VOLUNTARY TAX CONTRIBUTIONS**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports if amended** Assembly Bill 296 (AB 296), as amended on May 1, 2019, if amended to include the recommendations in this letter.

If enacted, the proposed legislation, among other things, would establish the Climate Innovation Grant Program, administered by Strategic Growth Council, to award grants in the form of matching funds for the development and research of new innovations and technologies to address issues related to emissions of greenhouse gases and impacts caused by climate change. The bill would establish the Climate Innovation Fund in the State Treasury and would continuously appropriate the moneys in the fund to the council for purposes of the program. The bill would repeal the program on January 1, 2031. This bill would allow an individual to designate on their tax return that a specified amount in excess of their personal income tax liability be transferred to the Climate Innovation Voluntary Tax Contribution Account, which would be created by this bill.

The Task Force supports the proposed legislation if it is expanded to include the following amendments:

- ensure that grants are technology neutral, based on life cycle analysis, the principle of performance standards to help us better achieve our climate change emission reduction goals.
- prioritize innovations that help meet the state's Short-Lived Climate Pollutant (methane) requirements and organics diversion goals such as post-recycled Municipal Solid Waste conversion technologies.

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Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939), 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 296 **if amended** as indicated on this letter. 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
Mayor, City of Rosemead

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cc: Assembly Member Cooley
Each Member and staff of the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities
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
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force