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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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April 21, 2015

The Honorable Das Williams Chair
Assembly Natural Resources Committee
State Capitol, Room 2205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Williams:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 577 (AMENDED APRIL 6, 2015) – SUPPORT
BIOMETHANE: GRANT PROGRAM**

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force), I am pleased to advise that the Task Force is in **support** of Assembly Bill 577 (AB 577), as amended on April 6, 2015.

The Task Force supports the State's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions pursuant to the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32). California has historically been a global leader for environmental sustainability and AB 32 reinforces this reputation. Replacing fossil fuels with lower carbon intensive renewable fuels as proposed by AB 577 would assist in this effort.

Renewable natural gas, otherwise known as biomethane or biogas, has a much lower carbon intensity compared to natural gas derived from fossil fuels. Biomethane is generated from organic waste through a host of processes including, but not limited to, anaerobic digestion. In 2012, California passed legislation and subsequent rules to facilitate and promote the production and utilization of biomethane in the State by allowing for injection of biomethane into common carrier natural gas pipelines. However, biomethane project start-up costs have proved cost-prohibitive and consequently not one pipeline biomethane project has been developed since the State has allowed biomethane injection into the pipelines. AB 577 will allocate a percentage of AB 32 funds (cap and trade proceeds) to spur the in-State production and utilization of biomethane/biogas by providing grants to project developers for the purchase of collection and purification equipment.

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.

For the reasons indicated above, the Task Force supports AB 577. Should you have any questions regarding this letter 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 Pro Tem, City of Rosemead

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cc: Assembly Member Susan A. Bonilla
Each Member of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee and Staff
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities
Bioenergy Association of California
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 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