



**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**

**GAIL FARBER, CHAIR
MARGARET CLARK, VICE CHAIR**

March 21, 2011

The Honorable Wesley Chesbro
State Capitol Room 2141
Sacramento, CA 94249

Dear Assemblymember Chesbro:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 341 (INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 10, 2011)
SOLID WASTE: DIVERSION**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) has reviewed Assembly Bill 341 (AB 341), which would, among other things, increase the State's Solid Waste Diversion Mandate from 50 percent to 75 percent and impose mandatory commercial recycling requirements. The Task Force is concerned with the introduced version of the bill, and, for this reason, would like to request a meeting with your office to discuss the provisions contained in the bill.

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, 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.

If enacted, AB 341 would require the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to ensure that 75 percent of all solid waste is diverted from disposal by January 1, 2020, without providing local governments the tools to achieve and sustain the desired diversion rates; require local governments to implement mandatory commercial recycling programs, further imposing significant financial burden on local

governments and California businesses for compliance with the mandate; and eliminate local review and comment over certain changes to solid waste facility permits and non-disposal facility elements, reducing local authority regarding solid waste management planning. The Task Force has consistently raised concerns regarding these provisions, which have been unsuccessfully proposed in previous legislative sessions. Thus, we continue to encourage a more meaningful dialogue regarding these issues so that the perspective and concerns of local governments can be incorporated into the proposal as it moves forward.

In anticipation of a meeting with your office, we offer the following points to consider, and for inclusion into the bill as it advances in the legislative process:

1. Conduct a life-cycle and economic analysis to evaluate the true life-cycle environmental and economic cost of recycling.
2. Recycling is sustainable only when there are sufficient markets for goods. To this end, the State may consider expanding its market development efforts by providing economic incentives and assistance to innovative businesses that use these materials.
3. To avoid the environmental drawbacks of shipping recyclables to foreign countries, the bill should provide for development of in-State facilities that can properly handle and process these recovered materials as well as consider product stewardship strategies.
4. Once recyclable materials are removed from the solid waste stream, the waste materials that are left behind have little to no beneficial reuse value and the post-recycled residuals are buried in landfills. However, many of these residual materials can be beneficially used to produce renewable energy or green fuel using proven technologies.

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We look forward to working with your office on AB 341 and would appreciate it if the appropriate staff would follow up with Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147 or MikeMohajer@yahoo.com regarding this matter.

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: Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
Each City Mayor and City Manager in the County of Los Angeles
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities
League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division
Southern California Association of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force