



GAIL FARBER
CHAIR

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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March 17, 2009

The Honorable Bob Blumenfield
State Capitol Room 6011
Sacramento, CA 94249

Dear Assembly Member Blumenfield:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 473 (INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 24, 2009)
RECYCLING: MULTIFAMILY DWELLINGS**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **is concerned** about Assembly Bill 473 (AB 473), which proposes to require owners of multifamily dwellings to arrange for recycling services.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (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 its 88 cities in Los Angeles County with a combined population in excess of 10 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, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, the City of Los Angeles, the waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

AB 473, if enacted, would require an owner of a multifamily dwelling of five or more units, on and after July 1, 2010, to arrange for recycling services. While the Task Force supports efforts to expand access to recycling services to residents of multifamily dwellings, we are concerned that this bill would increase the amount of recyclables collected without addressing the need for markets for these recyclables. The current global economic downturn and collapse of the global recycling market has negatively affected the State's already weakened recycling infrastructure and industries. With less demand for recycled material, jurisdictions are beginning to struggle to meet the current 50 percent waste diversion mandate. Currently most recyclables are being stockpiled, and may soon be disposed of in landfills due to lack of markets in Pacific Rim countries. Additionally, environmental rules and regulations in these countries are either nonexistent and/or substantially below those existing in California. As a result, increasing the supply of

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recyclable materials in the current economic climate may further reduce the value of the existing stockpile of recyclable materials and accelerate their ultimate disposal.

The Task Force strongly supports recycling as an important element of our integrated solid waste management system, and recognizes its value in reducing our dependence on landfills. However, recycling efforts focused on collection of materials without developing a strong demand for diverted materials will not ultimately succeed. We look forward to working with you and the Legislature to develop solutions that will maintain California's leadership in recycling and waste diversion. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force 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

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cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Senate President Pro Temp Darrell Steinberg
Assembly Speaker Karen Bass
Senator Dennis Hollingsworth, Minority Leader
Assembly Member Michael Villines, Minority Leader
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
Each City Mayor 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
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County