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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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July 12, 2012

The Honorable Felipe Fuentes, Chair
Assembly Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Fuentes:

**SUPPORT AND AMEND - SENATE BILL 1122 (AMENDED JUNE 28, 2012)
ENERGY: RENEWABLE BIOMASS AND BIOGAS PROJECTS**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports and respectfully requests an amendment** to Senate Bill 1122 (SB 1122) which would, among other things, require the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), by June 1, 2013, to direct electrical corporations to collectively procure at least 250 megawatts of electrical generating capacity from startup developers of biomass and biogas projects.

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, 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 supports legislative efforts that promote alternative sources of energy through the utilization of safe and environmentally friendly conversion technologies (CTs). CTs are thermal, chemical and biological technologies capable of converting post-recycled residual solid waste and other organic materials into renewable energy, green fuels, and other marketable products.

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Each year, nearly 40 million tons of solid waste is disposed by residents and businesses in California. Converting this waste to green fuels would curb greenhouse gas emissions and could substantially reduce the amount of organic waste sent to landfills. Additionally, CT projects create a range of new, high-tech green collar jobs in scientific research and development, engineering, construction, and facility operations. Moreover, converting organic waste into green fuels would reduce vehicular emissions resulting from long distance shipping of waste and eliminate methane production from organic waste that would otherwise be landfilled.

We are encouraged to see SB 1122 encourages additional development of certain types of technologies (specifically, biomass, and biogas) that reflect some of these benefits. However, the bill excludes a number of viable technologies which can convert unrecyclable residual solid waste into green fuels and renewable energy in an environmentally safe manner. For example, according to Public Resources Code 40106, "biomass conversion" excludes proven technologies such as anaerobic digestion and gasification. The inclusion of these proven technologies would allow additional competition to ensure the best and most cost effective options move forward in the marketplace, and help bring the intentions of the bill to fruition. Therefore, the Task Force respectfully requests the bill be amended to include all CTs.

For these reasons, the Task Force **supports** SB 1122, **and** respectfully requests an **amendment** as discussed above. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer 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
Council Member, City of Rosemead

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cc: Senator Michael Rubio
Each Member of the Assembly Committee on Appropriations
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
San Fernando Valley 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 Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Each Member of the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee