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MARGARET CLARK, VICE - CHAIR

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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May 7, 2012

The Honorable Christine Kehoe, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Kehoe:

**SUPPORT - SENATE BILL 965 (AMENDED MAY 2, 2012)
WATER CONTROL BOARDS: EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Senate Bill 965 (SB 965) which, if enacted, would align State Water Resources Control Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Water Boards) ex parte prohibitions with rules applicable to other State environmental boards and commissions.

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.

The Task Force supports transparency in adjudicatory matters before all State agencies, boards and commissions whose decisions affect the environment and public health. Likewise, the Task Force supports efforts that increase the capacity for the public and affected parties to bring complicated matters before public interest bodies, such as the Water Boards, to a better understanding by allowing communication outside official adjudicatory hearings. As such, SB 965 would allow ex parte communication between interested parties, and Water Board members in cases related to the issuing of

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Waste Discharge Requirements, dredged or fill material permits, certification of compliance to Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as well as conditional waste discharge waivers if that communication is made public by entering it into the official Water Board record. This would be in the public interest as it would help foster resolutions in important issues related to water rights by encouraging productive transparent communication. Moreover, the policy would bring consistency to ex parte communication policies of other State boards and commissions, such as the Coastal Commission and the Air Resources Board.

For these reasons, the Task Force **supports** SB 965. If you have any questions, 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
Council Member, City of Rosemead

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cc: Senator Roderick D. Wright
Senator Sam Blakeslee
Each member of Senate Appropriations Committee
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Each City Mayor and City Manager in the County of Los Angeles
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 Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force