



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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March 28, 2016

The Honorable Ben Hueso, Chair
Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee
State Capital Room 4035
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Hueso:

SENATE BILL 1153: BIOMETHANE: RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS ACT

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Senate Bill 1153 (SB 1153), as introduced February 18, 2016. Among other things, this bill would require the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to consider and adopt policies to significantly increase the production and availability of in-State pipeline biomethane.

Pursuant to the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939 [AB 939], as amended) and Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code, 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, the waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

The Task Force has long been a supporter of utilizing the State's organic waste in order to generate and use biofuels. With the enactment of Assembly Bill 1900 (AB 1900, Gatto) in 2012 and subsequent actions undertaken pursuant to AB 1900, quality and safety standards have been established for injection of biomethane, which is also known as renewable natural gas, into common carrier pipelines. For a variety of reasons, however, very little biomethane has been injected into the pipelines. Among the reasons, is the volatile nature of the natural gas market.

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SB 1153 would require the PUC to adopt a biomethane feed-in tariff program which requires gas corporations regulated by the PUC to procure, through long-term contracts, biomethane produced in-State while considering impacts to ratepayers. Long-term contracts would afford project developers the financial collateral needed to secure funding to develop projects which can produce biomethane. Increased in-State biomethane production would reduce greenhouse gas emissions while providing local jurisdictions options to safely divert organic waste. Moreover, increasing the in-State production of biomethane would reduce air and water pollution associated with fossil-fuel derived natural gas, which is typically imported from outside the State.

Based on the foregoing, the Task Force **supports** SB 1153. 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
Mayor, City of Rosemead

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cc: Senator Anthony Cannella
Each Member of the Energy, Utilities, and Communications
Committee
Jay Dickenson, Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee Consultant
California Air Resources Board
Each Member of the California Public Utilities Commission
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles 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 Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force