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LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
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July 27, 2016

The Honorable Lorena S. Gonzalez, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Appropriations  
State Capitol, Room 2114  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez:

**SENATE BILL 970 (AMENDED JUNE 29, 2016) – SUPPORT IF AMENDED:  
GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND: GRANT PROGRAM: RECYCLABLE  
MATERIALS**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) is pleased to **support** Senate Bill 970 (SB 970), **if amended**. In its current form, SB 970 would require the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), in awarding a grant for organics composting or anaerobic digestion under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund grant program, to consider, among other things, the amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions that may result from the project and the amount of organic material that may be diverted from landfills as a result of the project. This bill would also permit CalRecycle to provide larger grant awards for large-scale regional integrated projects that provide cost-effective organic waste diversion and maximize environmental benefits.

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.

SB 970's objective of organic waste diversion aligns with multiple previously chaptered State laws pertaining to waste diversion mandates and/or statewide policy goals, including AB 32 (2006, Nunez), AB 341 (2011, Chesbro), AB 1826 (2014, Chesbro),

and AB 876 (2015, McCarty). SB 970 may provide local jurisdictions with the additional resources necessary for efficient organic waste diversion projects on a regional scale. The Task Force believes that SB 970 stands to improve the State's broader organics diversion goals with greater potential impact and reach, particularly as organics remain among the principal sources of methane, one of the most potent gases among all GHGs.

As one of the State's most ardent supporters of conversion technologies, the Task Force finds it unfortunate that the latest version of the bill no longer includes any consideration of if, and how, a project leverages existing waste water treatment infrastructure in awarding a grant for organics composting or anaerobic digestion. The Task Force recommends that this consideration be re-inserted into the bill language.

Based on the foregoing, the Task Force **supports SB 970, if amended** to include previous bill language, as described above. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer, a Member of the Task Force, at [MikeMohajer@yahoo.com](mailto: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 Connie Leyva  
Each Member of the Assembly Committee on Appropriations  
Assembly Committee on Appropriations (Jennifer Galehouse and Elizabeth MacMillan)  
California State Association of Counties  
League of California Cities – Los Angeles County Division  
Each member of the Los Angeles County 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 City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force