



MARK PESTRELLA, PE, CHAIR
MARGARET CLARK, VICE - CHAIR

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
P.O. BOX 1460, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460
www.lacountyiswmtf.org

August 18, 2021

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

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez:

SUPPORT IN CONCEPT – SENATE BILL 619 (LAIRD) AS AMENDED ON APRIL 13, 2021 – ORGANIC WASTE: REDUCTION REGULATIONS

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) is pleased to **support in concept** Senate Bill 619 (SB 619), as amended on April 13, 2021.

If enacted, the proposed legislation would require the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) until January 1, 2023, to only impose a penalty on a local jurisdiction and only allow a penalty to accrue for a violation of the regulations if the local jurisdiction did not make a reasonable effort, as determined by CalRecycle, to comply with the Senate Bill 1383 (Lara, 2016) [SB 1383] regulations.

Using a good faith effort approach to enforcement until January 1, 2023, would provide local jurisdictions with desperately needed flexibility while extending the deadlines would allow local jurisdictions to further their efforts toward achieving the Statewide organic waste recycling targets and climate goals. The existing timeline does not give local jurisdictions adequate time to create effective programs and navigate permit and ordinance processes, while also struggling with residents, small businesses, and municipal budgets severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is imperative to provide adequate time and resources for local jurisdictions to design and implement thoughtful and successful organic waste recycling programs.

Existing law and CalRecycle's regulations; however, do not recognize the significant challenges created by a lack of infrastructure and the COVID-19 pandemic. As such the Task Force respectfully request that the bill also be amended to include the following provisions:

1. Funding for required infrastructure:
 - a. Lack of necessary organic waste infrastructure is a significant challenge for Southern California. Best estimates are that over \$1 billion of new infrastructure is needed just in Los Angeles County, while to date only \$175 million in cap-and-trade funds has been allocated to CalRecycle since 2014, and no funding is proposed in the upcoming fiscal year.
 - b. Passing local ordinances with fines on local businesses and increasing solid waste collection rates in the midst of the COVID-19 emergency and subsequent economic recovery period will be very challenging.
2. Reduce the time and cost associated with solid waste facility permitting and environmental reviews process for new infrastructure.
3. Delay the requirement to pass a local enforcement ordinance to allow additional time for post-pandemic economic recovery and education and outreach surrounding new organic waste programs before penalties are imposed on residents and businesses. Also, allow for development and implementation of a phase-in procurement requirements, possibly three years, rather than the aggressive requirement currently mandated by the SB 1383 adopted regulation.
4. Market incentives for the development of new infrastructure, including incentives to include Renewable Natural Gas as a part of the transition to electrification.
5. Support for additional organic waste diversion options, including clear permitting tiers and sample programmatic California Environmental Quality Act documents for biomass conversion as well as funding to study high diversion capabilities and emissions reductions of other alternative technologies.

We appreciate the flexibility the current language is seeking to provide and hope this proposed legislation will provide additional support to jurisdictions struggling to comply with the short deadlines and statewide goals of SB 1383.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939), 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

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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.

Based on the foregoing, the Task Force strongly **supports in concept** SB 619. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer, a member 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 Laird
Each Member and staff of the Assembly Committee on Appropriations
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities – Los Angeles County Division
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Fesia A. Davenport, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay 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 the County of Los Angeles
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force