



GAIL FARBER
CHAIR

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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June 22, 2009

The Honorable Roderick D. Wright
State Capitol, Room 5064
Sacramento, CA 94248-0001

Dear Senator Wright:

**SENATE BILL 696 (AMENDED MAY 5, 2009)
EMMISSION REDUCTION CREDITS**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Senate Bill 696 (SB 696) which, if enacted, would exempt from requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) the adoption and implementation of specified South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) rules, and the creation of specified (Priority Reserve) air emission reduction credits for the construction of essential public service projects.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (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 10 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, the City of Los Angeles, the waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

Due to a 2007 California State Superior Court decision, the SCAQMD has been forced to stop issuing permits relying on the District's internal emissions reduction offset account. In addition, this has caused the suspension of over 1,000 SCAQMD permits for essential public services, such as schools, fire and police stations, water quality plants, pollution control projects, hospitals, electricity generation, landfill gas to energy projects, manufacturing and others, with the potential revocation of an additional 2,000 existing

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permits. Furthermore, this decision has impacted previously permitted projects by halting the progress of these projects and has the potential to affect the development of future projects, including significant numbers of projects that would be eligible for "Stimulus Funding" from the federal government.

SB 696, if enacted, would reestablish the SCAQMD's offset account and allow access to its Priority Reserve credits to allow essential services and job-creating projects to be built, while maintaining environmental protections, including CEQA which would still be required for all projects utilizing the Priority Reserve. SB 696, if enacted, would also help improve the environment by allowing existing older, higher emitting and less efficient equipment to be replaced with newer cleaner and more efficient equipment, as well as assisting conversion technologies and other vital solid waste management infrastructure to move forward.

Therefore, the Task Force **supports** SB 696. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (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

SK/RG:cw

P:/Sec/taskforce/AB 696 amended

cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Senate President Pro Temp Darrell Steinberg
Assembly Speaker Karen Bass
Senator Dennis Hollingsworth, Minority Leader
Assembly Member Michael Villines, Minority Leader
Each member of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
Each City Mayor in the County of Los Angeles
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities
League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division
Southern California Association of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County