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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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May 4, 2006

The Honorable Dean Florez
State Capitol Room 5061
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable George Runner
State Capitol Room 4066
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senators Florez and Runner:

**SENATE BILL 1835 (AMENDED APRIL 18, 2006)
CLARIFYING PERMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR SOLID WASTE FACILITIES APPROVED
VIA LOCAL BALLOT INITIATIVE**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Senate Bill 1835 (SB 1835), which would prohibit solid waste facility project proponents from circumventing, among other things the land use permit process.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 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 its 88 cities in Los Angeles County. Consistent with these responsibilities and to ensure a coordinated and cost-effective 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.

Currently, local, State and Federal governments take an active role in ensuring that solid waste facilities so that they do not pose a risk to public health and safety or the environment. For example, prior to granting a land use permit for a landfill, the host jurisdiction conducts an extensive environmental review of the proposal, including preparation and certification of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document, identifying mitigating measures to reduce negative impacts, and through permit conditions, setting specific criteria for design and operation of the facility. Such permit conditions are

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often significantly more restrictive than the mitigation measures identified in the CEQA document.

However, these safeguards would be jeopardized by projects approved directly through a local ballot initiative, because the ballot initiative has the authority to supersede the host jurisdiction's land use authority. SB 1835, if enacted, would close this loophole by requiring those projects approved at the ballot to receive all necessary permits, including compliance with the host jurisdiction's land use and/or zoning requirements, prior to issuance of the Solid Waste Facility Permit by the Local Enforcement Agency and concurrence by the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

Therefore, the Task Force **supports** SB 1835. 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
Councilmember, City of Rosemead

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cc: Governor Schwarzenegger
Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata
Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez
Each Member of the Senate Appropriations Committee
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation
Each Member of the California Integrated Waste Management Board
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
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Solid Waste Association of North America
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force