



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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DONALD L. WOLFE
CHAIRMAN

May 23, 2007

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

Dear Senator Florez:

**SENATE BILL 55 (AMENDED APRIL 30, 2007)
ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **opposes** Senate Bill 55 (SB 55), which among other things, would impose onerous certification and assurance requirements on Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) in California.

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 its 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 County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, the City of Los Angeles, the waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

SB 55, if adopted, would require a POTW to certify that any sewage sludge generated is non-hazardous and independently tested. It would also require a POTW to meet the requirements and standards for any pollutants listed in the waste discharge requirements. Moreover, it would prohibit sewage sludge land application if it does not meet these and other requirements.

Currently, POTWs must comply with the Federal Clean Water Act and the State Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Furthermore, POTWs must comply with stringent regulations adopted by a host of public and regulatory agencies including: the United States Environmental Protection Agency; the California Water Resources Board and its local

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Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs); the California Integrated Waste Management Board; the California Air Resources Board and local Air Pollution Control/Air Quality Management Districts; and local governments' ordinances that include land use permits.

These laws and regulations are in place primarily to protect the health and safety of the public, protect the environment, and our natural resources. They are meant to ensure the proper and continuous management of biosolids while minimizing unnecessary costs for these public facilities. The Task Force believes the provisions outlined in SB 55 would cost local agencies millions of dollars, and provide the public with no tangible additional safety or protection.

Any effort to change current law and regulations regarding biosolids management must maintain the important balance of the current statutory and regulatory structure while weighing local needs, statewide responsibilities, costs, and public health and safety. Therefore the Task Force **opposes** SB 55. 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
Council Member, City of Rosemead

CS:cw

cc: Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata
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
Solid Waste Association of North America
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force