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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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August 4, 2011

The Honorable Darrell Steinberg
Senate President Pro Tem
State Capitol Room 205
Sacramento, CA 94248-0001

Dear Senator Steinberg:

ASSEMBLY BILL 1178 (AMENDED JULY 13, 2011)
SOLID WASTE: PLACE OF ORIGIN

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **opposes** Assembly Bill 1178 (AB 1178), which would prohibit an ordinance enacted by a city or county, including an ordinance enacted by initiative by the voters of a city or county, from restricting or otherwise limiting the importation of solid waste into a privately owned solid waste facility in that city or county based on place of origin.

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, 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, the waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

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The Task Force is strongly opposed to this bill's proposed legislative findings and declarations that state restrictions or limits on the importation of solid waste based on the place of origin are "an obstacle to, and conflict with, statewide and regional policies to ensure adequate and appropriate capacity for solid waste disposal." The impacts of solid waste disposal facilities are most acute at the local level, and as a result, it is crucial for local governments to have the authority to protect the quality of life of their residents by placing reasonable constraints on the flow of waste.

The Task Force is concerned with the bill's impetus being a desire to overturn local Measure E in Solano County and potentially having staggering Statewide consequences. Local governments have established permitting requirements and conditions and/or watershed restrictions on publically and privately owned disposal facilities for a variety of reasons including preserving local or in-county disposal capacities, reducing traffic impacts on communities, and other site-specific factors that are to avoid the creation of nuisances in the best interest of local governments and their constituents. The discretion granted to local governments in establishing boundaries for purposes of controlling the flow of solid waste, on a case-by-case basis, has provided an avenue to effectively advance local interests as well as enhancing public health and safety. The amended bill, while extolling solid waste disposal as a state-level responsibility, in effect gives disposal discretion solely to privately owned solid waste facility operators and solid waste haulers whose primary priority is generally established by economic factors.

Despite recent amendments, the proposed bill would hinder solid waste management planning activities that protect public health and safety. This bill goes against the will of California voters, interferes with judicial matters, and usurps local government autonomy Statewide in an attempt to overturn a local decision impacting only one facility in Solano County.

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For the reasons mentioned above, the Task Force **opposes** AB 1178 as amended on July 13, 2011. Should 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

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cc: Assemblymember Gilbert Cedillo
Assemblymember Fiona Ma
Each Member of the Senate Appropriation Committee
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 and City Manager in the County of Los Angeles
Municipal Management Assistants of Southern California
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities
League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division
Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
Southern California Association of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
San Fernando Valley Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
Westside Cities Council of Governments
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force