



GAIL FARBER
CHAIR

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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September 25, 2009

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of the State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 473 (ENROLLED SEPTEMBER 11, 2009)
RECYCLING: MULTIFAMILY DWELLINGS**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) respectfully requests that you **veto** Assembly Bill 473 (AB 473), which proposes to require owners of multifamily dwellings to arrange for recycling services.

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.

AB 473, if enacted, would require an owner of a multifamily dwelling of five or more units, on and after July 1, 2010, to arrange for recycling services. While the Task Force supports efforts to expand access to recycling services to residents of multifamily dwellings, this bill would increase the amount of recyclables collected without addressing the need for markets for these recyclables. The current global economic downturn and collapse of the global recycling market has negatively affected the State's already weakened recycling infrastructure and industries. Currently most recyclables are being stockpiled, and may soon be disposed of in landfills due to lack of markets in Pacific Rim countries.

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Additionally, environmental rules and regulations in these countries are either non-existence and/or substantially below those existing in California. As a result, expanding the shipment of recyclable materials over incredibly long distances to these countries for management and remanufacturing is not a sound policy for California due to increase in environmental contamination, including but not limited to, air pollution and greenhouse gas emission. This concern is further substantiated by the California Integrated Waste Management's draft "Life Cycle Assessment and Economic Analysis of Organic Waste Management and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Options" conceding that "...data characterizing the energy and emissions for manufacturing operations in East Asia is not available." In the absence of such data, the Task Force does not believe it is appropriate to proceed with a mandatory multifamily dwelling recycling program.

The Task Force strongly supports recycling as an important element of our integrated solid waste management system, and recognizes its value in reducing our dependence on landfills. However, for the reasons stated above, the Task Forces **respectfully requests that you veto** AB 473. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,

Margaret Clark

Margaret Clark, Vice-Chair
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force and
Mayor, City of Rosemead

SK/CS:as

cc: Senate President Pro Temp Darrell Steinberg
Assembly Speaker Karen Bass
Senator Dennis Hollingsworth, Minority Leader
Assembly Member Sam Blakeslee, Minority Leader
Assembly Member Bob Blumenfield
Chief of Staff and Director Cynthia Bryant, Office of Planning and Research
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
Each City Mayor in Los Angeles County
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

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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