



GAIL FARBER, CHAIR
MARGARET CLARK, VICE CHAIR

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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February 8, 2011

The Honorable Darrell Steinberg
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 94248-0001

The Honorable Christine Kehoe
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 94248-0001

The Honorable Joe Simitian
State Capitol, Room 2080
Sacramento, CA 94248-0001

Dear Senators:

**SENATE BILL 23 ENERGY: RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES
INTRODUCED DECEMBER 6, 2010**

The Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) is fully supportive of efforts by the State of California to increase the production and utilization of renewable energy. California is a national leader in landmark environmental policies and programs.

The Task Force is a consistent supporter of municipal solid waste (MSW) conversion technologies as a way to both manage post-recycled solid waste residuals in an environmentally preferred manner and generate renewable energy and biofuels. It is also our policy to oppose any legislative proposal that would prohibit MSW conversion technology facilities from receiving renewable energy credit under the State's Renewable Portfolio Standard provided that such a facility (1) meets all federal, state, regional and local laws and regulations and (2) uses only post-recycled solid waste residuals.

To date, the scientifically inaccurate definitions of *municipal solid waste conversion* in the Public Resources Code, Section 25741 (subsection (b) 3), and *gasification* in the Public Resources Code, Section 40117, have detrimentally affected the development of these innovative technologies in California. At a time when California is facing record budget deficits and unemployment rates, these technologies could infuse millions of dollars of economic investment in our renewable energy infrastructure and create countless green-collar jobs.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how this bill could be amended to be mutually beneficial for (1) the utilities mandated to purchase renewable energy, (2) the project developers wishing to site renewable energy generating facilities in California, (3) local governments who are looking for alternative ways to manage their municipal solid waste stream, and (4) the State of California who has ambitious environmental and renewable energy goals.

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 by the County and the 88 cities in the County of Los Angeles. Consistent with these responsibilities and to ensure a coordinated and cost-effective solid waste management system in the County of Los Angeles, the Task Force also addresses issues impacting the solid waste management 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.

Senators Steinberg, Kehoe, and Simitian
February 8, 2011
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We would appreciate it if the appropriate staff would follow up with Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147 or MikeMohajer@yahoo.com regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Margaret Clark

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

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cc:

James Boyd, Commissioner, California Energy Commission
Mary Nichols, Chair, Air Resources Board
Mark Leary, Acting Director, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
Ronald L. Litzinger, President, Southern California Edison
Thomas E. Bottorff, Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, Pacific Gas & Electric
Dan Skopec, Vice President, Regulatory and Legislative Affairs,
Southern California Gas Company
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Each Member of the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee