



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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GAIL FARBER, CHAIR
MARGARET CLARK, VICE - CHAIR

October 31, 2013

Ms. Mary Nichols, Chair
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Nichols:

**COMMENTS ON CLIMATE CHANGE SCOPING PLAN FIRST UPDATE
(RELEASED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON OCTOBER 1, 2013)**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) has reviewed the Discussion Draft of the 2013 Updated AB 32 Scoping Plan (Discussion Draft) that was released on October 1, 2013. We appreciate that many of the comments submitted by the Task Force in our August 5, 2013, letter (copy enclosed) were addressed in the Discussion Draft to some extent. This letter highlights our outstanding concerns.

We appreciate the effort the California Air Resources Board (CARB) has made to make this process transparent and inclusive of stakeholder input. We were pleased to see the Discussion Draft expanded to include some discussion of the integration of bioenergy projects in future measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). We did not see a response to our comment on the Water Sector Section regarding surface and ground water impacts resulting from composting facilities. Additionally there was no discussion in the Transportation Section regarding the overseas exportation of recyclables (approximately 22 million tons in 2010) that creates tremendous GHG emissions both in California and abroad. Given that the transportation sector is the largest source of GHG emissions in California and is at the very heart of the intent of AB 32, we believe this issue needs to be further addressed in the Discussion Draft. Our goal is to work collaboratively with CARB and CalRecycle on the Discussion Draft to achieve a practical, feasible, and financially sustainable framework for waste diversion and GHG reductions.

We are actively involved in the stakeholder process for the development of the Waste Sector Plan undertaken by CalRecycle, the focus of which has influenced the Waste Management Sector Element of the Discussion Draft. While we support many of the measures proposed by CalRecycle in the Waste Management Sector Element, we remain very concerned that CalRecycle's approach is primarily built upon the

implementation of the 75 percent diversion goal outlined in AB 341 (Chesbro, Chapter 476, Statutes of 2011), which narrowly limits any future state-supported technological and environmental advancement in the waste management sector to source reduction, recycling, or composting. Very little opportunity is being given to the production of carbon neutral fuels and energy from waste materials, both of which will play a critical role in helping the State achieve AB 32 goals beyond 2020.

Since the passage of AB 939, the State has counted out-of-state shipping as “recycling” without requiring verification that these materials were in fact recycled in a closed loop process that reconstitutes the materials into the marketplace as established in State law. It appears that this practice will be eligible for credit under AB 341 and AB 32 in the waste sector plan. As we have stated in previous letters, this practice is counterproductive to the goals of AB 32 given what we know about the destiny of these exported materials, which according to CalRecycle amounted to approximately 22 million tons in 2010.

The dramatic and swift actions needed to meet the annual landfill disposal reduction of 22 million tons of waste and a projected 20-30 MMTCO_{2e} GHG reductions are concerning given that many of the achievable measures or “low-hanging fruit” have already been accomplished by jurisdictions and private waste management companies over the last three decades. Reaching even higher diversion and lowering GHG emission by banning organics materials from disposal facilities by 2020 will require a whole host of new state legislative and regulatory requirements, significant efforts to develop needed infrastructures with significant capital investment, and a complete streamlining of our state and local permitting process in a short timeframe. CalRecycle and CARB need to develop a phased in approach to develop these goals. The Update should also identify measures and tools that the state is willing to provide locals with in achieving the stated goals.

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 appreciates the extensive work CARB has done to usher in so many GHG-reducing measures over the past five years. We believe there is continued opportunity to find additional GHG reductions in the waste sector in a way that is practical, feasible, and financially sustainable. We look forward to working with CARB and CalRecycle to further refine the objectives of the waste sector. Should you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or 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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Enc.

cc: Caroll Mortensen, Howard Levinson and Scott Smithline, CalRecycle (Waste)
Sekita Grant, California Energy Commission (Energy)
Mike Tollstrup and Jack Kitowski, California Air Resources Board (Transportation)
Amrith Gunasekara, California Department of Food and Agriculture (Agriculture)
Frances Spivy-Weber, California State Water Resources Control Board (Water)
David Mallory and Shelby Livingston, California Air Resources Board (Natural Resources)
League of California Cities
League of California Cities, Los Angeles Division
California State Association of Counties
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Each City Mayor/Manager in the County of Los Angeles
South Coast Air Quality Management District
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Counsel of Governments
Southern California Association of Governments (Carl Morehouse and Huasha Liu)
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Each Member of the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee
Each Member of the Facility Plan Review Subcommittee