



GAIL FARBER
CHAIR

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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April 20, 2009

The Honorable Anthony Adams
State Capitol, Room 4015
Sacramento, CA 94249-0059

The Honorable Fiona Ma
State Capitol, Room 3091
Sacramento, CA 94249-0012

Dear Assembly Members Adams and Ma:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 222 (AMENDED APRIL 14, 2009)
BIOREFINERIES**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **strongly supports** Assembly Bill 222 (AB 222). AB 222 if enacted, would correct scientifically flawed definitions within the California's Public Resources Code (PRC) which have dampened the development of conversion technologies. AB 222 would also establish a new category of industries, termed biorefineries, under which conversion technologies would be regulated, thereby leveling the playing field for the development of these facilities within 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 the 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 222, if enacted, would delete the scientifically inaccurate definition of gasification within State statute. AB 222 would define the term "biorefinery", enabling these facilities to be permitted under the same provisions as are required for other manufacturing

facilities, while at the same time requiring them to meet or exceed all state and local environmental protection standards. AB 222, if enacted, would revise the definition of “transformation” to mean the incineration of solid waste with or without the recovery of energy, excluding composting, biomass conversion or conversion at a biorefinery. AB 222 would also require a biorefinery managing solid waste feedstock to remove recyclable products prior to the conversion process to the maximum extent possible. Finally, AB 222 clarifies that energy and biofuels, when produced from carbon-based waste feedstocks, will qualify as renewable energy for purposes of the State’s Renewable Portfolio Standard, and will not count as disposal for the purposes of complying with the State’s waste disposal reduction mandates.

Despite enacting and implementing many of the most aggressive waste reduction and recycling policies and programs in the country, California continues to send over 40 million tons of residual, post-recycled solid waste to landfills and incinerators each year. For many years, the Task Force has been a strong supporter of conversion technologies as an alternative to traditional disposal of this residual waste, and has played a major role in promoting their development. Conversion technologies are processes capable of converting residual waste into useful products, green fuels and clean renewable energy without combusting the waste. Reports completed on behalf of the California Integrated Waste Management Board, in concert with the Universities of California at Davis and Riverside, affirmed that conversion technologies offer a superior alternative to landfilling and incineration of solid waste, offering a number of substantial benefits with regards to renewable energy production, resource conservation, and pollution reduction.

Developing such facilities in California will complement our recycling industry, and lessen our dependence on landfilling, all while complying with strict environmental standards. Conversion technologies can also help the State simultaneously address a number of its most vital environmental goals, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions (AB 32); recovering biomass resources for beneficial use (Bioenergy Action Plan); produce renewable fuels within the State (AB 118/Local Carbon Fuel Standard); and produce local, baseload renewable energy that is accessible without the need for large transmission lines (Renewable Portfolio Standard). In addition, conversion technologies provide an opportunity to develop green-collar jobs within the State, spurring the kind of economic development we so urgently need right now.

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Therefore, the Task Force **strongly supports** AB 222. 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

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cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Senate President Pro Temp Darrell Steinberg
Senator Dennis Hollingsworth, Minority Leader
Assembly Member Michael Villines, Minority Leader
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
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
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