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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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June 1, 2011

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
Dear Commissioners:

COMMENTS REGARDING THE 2011-2012 AB 118
ALTERNATIVE FUELS INVESTMENT PLAN (DOCKET # 10-ALT-01)

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** the inclusion of $8 Million funding allocation for pre-landfill biomethane production in the California Energy Commission (CEC) 2011-2012 AB 118 Alternative Fuels Investment Plan (Investment Plan). This is the most comprehensive Investment Plan to date, and we believe it will have a positive impact on the development of renewable fuel projects throughout California.

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

Biomethane, especially when produced from waste-based resources or byproducts, achieves one of the lowest carbon intensities of any fuel. Anaerobic digestion of waste feedstocks is proving to be a reliable and cost-effective technology for creating very low carbon transportation fuels that can be readily incorporated into existing vehicles and fueling systems that use natural gas. Last fiscal year, the Energy Commission awarded

a $4.5 million grant to CR&R Incorporated, a solid waste hauling company in the Los Angeles region. This company is proposing to use anaerobic digestion at one of their recycling facilities to convert the residual solid waste into biogas, which would in turn be upgraded to biomethane for use in their hauling fleet. This project has been evaluated and selected by the County of Los Angeles and this Task Force to be one of three demonstration projects for the Southern California Conversion Technology Program. This and other similar projects using conversion technology processes, including but not limited to gasification, would be highly beneficial to California for several reasons:

1. **Reduce solid waste going to landfills**

   Each year, nearly 40 million tons of solid waste is disposed by residents and businesses in California. Converting this waste to biomethane could substantially reduce the amount of organic waste sent to landfills.

2. **Create jobs**

   Projects such as the CR&R Incorporated project would create a range of new, high-tech green collar jobs in scientific research and development, engineering, construction, and facility operations. These facilities must be built close to the feedstock and are designed for long-term operation of 20 to 30 years or more.

3. **Benefit the environment**

   Converting organic waste to biomethane provides a triple benefit to the environment by (1) reduction of transportation emissions resulting from long distance shipping of waste, (2) elimination of methane production from waste that would otherwise be landfilled, and (3) displacement of the use of fossil fuels by net energy (fuel and electricity).

4. **Local biofuels production**

   There are numerous efforts underway in our county to clean up the air and create greener ways to travel. Biomethane is an alternative fuel option that could be produced locally to offset fossil fuels, including natural gas, reducing the need to transport biofuels hundreds of miles.

We appreciate CEC's leadership on the important issue of alternative fuel production in California. We encourage CEC to continue the allocation of funds through the Investment Plan to the most reliable and cost-effective technologies such as biomethane production from pre-landfill organic waste. Should 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
Council Member, City of Rosemead

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cc: Each Member of the California Energy Commission
Each Member of the AB 118 Advisory Committee
Each member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Each Member of the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee