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SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION  
of North America

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April 11, 2005

The Honorable Rosario Marin  
Chair, California Integrated Waste Management Board  
1001 I Street  
P.O. Box 4025, MS-15  
Sacramento, CA 95812-4025

**Subject: Conversion Technologies Report to the Legislature, February 2005**

Dear Chairwoman Marin:

The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) is composed of over 7000 public and private sector solid waste management professionals throughout North America dedicated to the development and enhancement of environmentally and economically sound practices and policies for the integrated management of municipal solid waste. The Association has approximately 900 members in California. ***The California Chapters of SWANA support the action taken by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) on March 15, 2005 in adopting the revised Resolution 2005-78 and the correlated Conversion Technologies Report to the Legislature.***

Recently, there have been allegations made that the substance of both the Report and Resolution and the process by which the content of both were formulated were flawed. SWANA believes only this theory to be flawed. The CIWMB has consistently cultivated stakeholder input in all of its areas of responsibility. Although at times, a stakeholder may not be completely pleased with the outcome of a CIWMB decision, it is imbalanced to present that decision as an outcome representative of a corrupt process. The discussion of the content of the final Report and Resolution began in early 2003—over two years of stakeholder input and public workshops resulted in the March 2005 CIWMB full Board meeting and resulting adoption of the Report and Resolution.

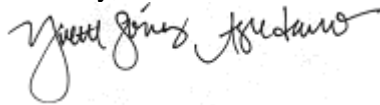
SWANA supports the recommendations made in the revised Resolution 2005-78, all of which are derived from the Conversion Technology Report to the Legislature itself. These recommendations include developing and making statutory definitions of Conversion Technology, deleting the inaccurate definition of “gasification,” clarification of the definition of “transformation”, and a distinction that Conversion Technologies differ from landfills and incineration. The Legislature should consider some level of diversion credit for conversion technology facilities in accordance with the conditions set forth in CIWMB Resolution 2002-177 (Revised). This Resolution was conceived in concert with various stakeholders, including local government representatives and environmental groups, such as Californians Against Waste (CAW). It should also be noted that the CAW supported the provision for diversion credit for conversion technologies indicated in the revised Resolution 2002-177, which was unanimously approved by your Board. At the time of adoption of this resolution, the Board included Michael Papanian, who filled the environmental seat on the Board.

SWANA believes that the report’s findings substantiate the position of many stakeholders, including SWANA and local governments, that (1) conversion technologies are protective of public health & safety and environment subject to standards of performance set and/or to be established by Federal and State regulatory agencies; and (2) the State solid waste management hierarchy established by the Assembly Bill 939 in 1989 should be revised to promote the following waste management practices in order of priority: (A) Source Reduction; (B) Recycling, composting and other beneficial/recovery uses such as conversion technologies; and (C) Disposal by means of incineration/combustion and landfilling. SWANA supports the recommendations made with respect to the findings of the report.

For these reasons, the California Chapters of SWANA urges support of the Conversion Technology Report recommendations.

SWANA and the California Legislative Task Force appreciate the opportunity to comment on this issue and we would be happy to provide any further information requested. If you have any questions during the consideration of these comments, please feel free to contact me at (916) 446-4656.

Sincerely,



Yvette Gómez Agredano  
Legislative Advocate  
SWANA, California Chapters

cc: Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata  
Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez  
Senator Gloria Romero  
Senator Alan Lowenthal  
Senator Joe Simitian  
Senator Sheila Kuehl  
Assembly Member Loni Hancock  
Assembly Member Doug La Malfa  
Assembly Member Mike Gordon  
Assembly Member Tom Harman  
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