

January 9, 2008

County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Supervisors:

Re: General Plan Update 2020, Solid Waste Management

The League of Women Voters of San Diego County supports Zero Waste as a goal. Our State position in brief is, “ that we support measures to ensure environmentally sound and efficient solid waste management, to reduce the generation of wastes, to encourage resource recovery, and to increase the demand for secondary materials. We further support regional solutions for solid waste disposal and recycling.”

We endorse the following Goals and Objectives written by the Citizens Advisory Committee on Solid Waste for San Diego County.

GOAL - Promote the highest and best use of discarded resources to eliminate waste and pollution, emphasizing a closed-loop system of production and consumption, moving in sensible, well-organized phases toward the goal of zero waste.

- **Objective 1-** Through resource management and based on current diversion measurement standards, reduce the volume of waste to be land filled by 75% by the year 2020, and set a goal to achieve zero waste.
 - **Objective 1.2** – Design waste out of the system by holding producers and businesses financially or physically responsible for the impact that their products and packaging have on public disposal, pollution, and clean-up (e.g. plastic and other materials found in marine debris).
 - **Objective 1.3** – Strengthen markets for reusable, recyclable and compostable materials by instituting policies and programs to “buy recycled.” Establish environmentally preferable purchasing guideline to reduce resource use and pollution. *In addition to Objective 1.3, the League recommends that the County encourage manufacturers to make items from recyclables.*
 - **Objective 1.6** – Adopt policies and economic incentives in ordinances, contracts, franchises, permits, zoning, general plans and removal rate structures that discourage discarding or incinerating discarded materials, and reward reusing recycling and composting.
 - **Objective 1.7** – Encourage local governments and organizations to adopt zero waste goals, develop zero waste plans, adhere to zero waste business principles and source separate designated materials that can be

reused, recycled or composted to meet waste diversion targets beyond the current 50% achieved.

- **Objective 1.8** – Support and help expand the activities of existing reuse, recycling and composting businesses and nonprofit organizations.
 - **Objective 1.9** – Support the development of regional resources recovery parks to provide locations for expansion of reuse recycling and composting businesses.
 - **Objective 1.11** – Encourage regional adoption of mandatory recycling ordinances requiring designated recyclables and organics to be separated at the source of generation.
- **Objective 2** - Preserve the integrity of our local and regional resources by phasing all compostable organic streams out of the landfill by 2020. Promote sustainable farming, landscaping and land development practices through use of air and water resource-friendly technologies and use of soil amendments and mulches created by discarded organics.
 - **Objective 2.1** - Modify County land use rules and zoning ordinances addressing composting, chipping and grinding, vermicomposting, manure management and other organic management technologies on farms to facilitate professional managed processing operations, emphasizing the highest and best use of organic resources.
Classify composting as an agricultural activity rather than an industrial activity requiring expensive permits.
 - **Objective 2.5** - Organics Recycling Market Development Zones (modeled after the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) 's existing Recycling Market Development Zone program) should be developed to identify land for facilitation of organic management facility establishment.
Keeping in mind there is a sincere effort to decrease the production of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the state and world, one of the fastest, cheapest and easiest ways to do that is to remove organics from the landfill and compost them. Although there are minor references to this concept, it is not well developed in the General Plan Update 2020.

We appreciate your consideration of our input as you consider the General Plan Update 2020.

Sincerely,

Kay Ragan
Co-President
League of Women Voters of San Diego County