

SALUD CARBAJAL
First District, Chair

STEVE LAVAGNINO
Fifth District, Vice Chair

JANET WOLF
Second District

DOREEN FARR
Third District

PETER ADAM
Fourth District



AGENDA ITEM 3A

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County Administration Building
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Telephone: (805) 568-2190
www.countyofsb.org

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

April 25, 2013

The Honorable Jerry Hill, Chair
Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol Building, Rm 5064
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 804 (Lara) – Solid Waste Conversion Technology
As Amended April 22, 2013 – SUPPORT
Set for hearing on May 1, 2013 – Senate Environmental Quality Committee

Dear Senator Hill:

On behalf of the County of Santa Barbara, I write to express our strong support for SB 804, by Senator Ricardo Lara. This bill would help to facilitate the development of cleaner and more efficient technologies in California for converting biomass materials to electricity. In addition, SB 804 clarifies that anaerobic digestion is equivalent to composting for the purposes of siting and permitting.

Current law defines "biomass conversion" as the controlled combustion of organic materials--such as wood, lawn and garden clippings, agricultural waste, leaves, tree pruning as well as non-recyclable paper--when separated from other solid waste and used for producing electricity or heat. This bill would simply include conversion technologies to the biomass definition, allowing for cleaner and more efficient technologies to be used in the biomass process.

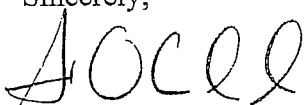
In addition, SB 804 includes anaerobic digestion in the definition of composting. Anaerobic digestion refers to the controlled biological decomposition of organic material with little or no oxygen. The decomposition of organic materials in solid waste landfills produces significant amounts of methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Anaerobic digestion can help California reduce greenhouse gas emissions under the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, (AB 32) by diverting organic materials from landfills, generate low-carbon fuels, and assist with meeting the state's 75% recycling goal. These changes will ensure that anaerobic digestion facilities, as well as aerobic composting facilities can be developed to process the nearly 15 million of tons of organic waste currently buried in landfills.

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In southern Santa Barbara County, we are developing a state of the art material recovery facility and an anaerobic digester to process material that remains in area trash cans. Our project each year will reduce the amount of waste landfilled by 60 percent and greenhouse gases generated by 130,000, while generating 1 megawatt of renewable energy. This important project allows Santa Barbara County to provide for long term waste management without the need for a landfill expansion or the exportation of waste to another community.

It is for these reasons that we strongly support SB 804 and respectfully request your “AYE” vote. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (805) 568-2186

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Salud Carbajal". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Supervisor Salud Carbajal
Chair of the Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Consultant, Senate Natural Resources Committee
The Honorable Ricardo Lara
The Honorable Hannah Beth Jackson
Assemblymember Das Williams, 35th Assembly District
Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian, 33rd Assembly District
Members of the Board of Supervisors
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates

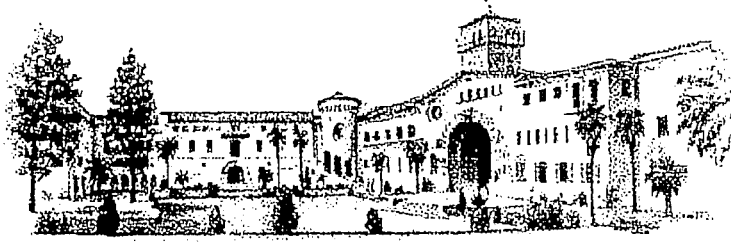
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April 23, 2013

Assemblymember Mike Gatto
Chair, Assembly Appropriations
State Capitol, Rm. 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1042 - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Gatto:

On behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, I am writing in support of AB 1042 – a measure that will clarify the roles of the Department of Finance and California Gambling Control Commission with respect to appropriations from the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund for local mitigation of impacts from tribal gaming. We believe that, by amending the statute to provide for a “recommendation” pertaining to local mitigation appropriations, the bill would result in a more accurate reflection of these agencies’ roles in the process. This clarifying change should not create any additional costs for the state.

The 2013 County of Santa Barbara Legislative Platform, adopted unanimously by the Board of Supervisors in January 2013, recognizes that the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund is not the exclusive source of mitigation, but ensures that local communities receive funding to mitigate off-reservation impacts of tribal gaming.

The Special Distribution Fund (SDF) was established as a component of the original 1999 Tribal-State compacts to provide gaming impact mitigation funding to local governments. This source of funding is important for local law enforcement, fire services, transportation improvements and other allowable purposes, especially for the communities neighboring casino operations of the twenty-one tribes who continue to operate under the 1999 compacts and pay into the SDF accordingly.

Thank you for your consideration of our support for AB 1042.

Sincerely,

Salud Carbajal, Chair
Board of Supervisors

CC: Assemblymember Das Williams, 35th Assembly District
Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian, 33rd Assembly District
Members of the Board of Supervisors
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

April 18, 2013

The Honorable Chris Holden
State Capitol
P. O. Box 9422849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0029

Fax: (916)319-2141

Re: AB 162 (Holden) - OPPOSITION

Dear Assemblymember Holden,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara County Supervisors, I am writing to express opposition to AB 162 which would limit the ability and authority of local governments to exercise zoning authority over wireless telecommunications facilities. The timeframes included in AB162 would greatly reduce the public hearing process by limiting the ability of a county to notice and hold the proper public meetings.

AB162 limits local government authority by saying:

“(b) The failure to act on an eligible facilities request within 45 days of receipt of a request shall be deemed an approval of the request. The 45 days shall be tolled if the request is determined to be incomplete. If the request is determined to be incomplete, the local government shall comply with subdivision (c) of Section 65943 of the Government Code.”

As proposed, this bill would speed up the process to the point where the County would lose the ability to facilitate an open and transparent process that promotes public engagement.

The County of Santa Barbara’s 2013 legislative platform seeks and supports legislation to repeal limitations on state and local authority imposed by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 that infringe upon the authority of local governments to regulate the placement of telecommunications towers. The County opposes sections of the act that preempt local control and does not adhere to the spirit of public engagement and an open transparent process that enables local governments to recognize and address the needs of both constituents and the industry. For these reasons, the County of Santa Barbara must oppose AB162 as well as any future legislation that does not fully provide for the voice and commentary from all impacted.

Sincerely,

Salud Carbajal, Chair
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

cc: Assemblymember Das Williams, 35th Assembly District
Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian, 33rd Assembly District
Members of the Board of Supervisors
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates