



CITY OF LONG BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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PATRICK H. WEST
CITY MANAGER

May 27, 2015

The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Oppose – SB 180 (Jackson). Electricity: emissions of greenhouse gases

Dear Senator Jackson:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I write to respectfully oppose SB 180. This bill creates economic instability at the City's Southeast Resource Recovery Facility (SERRF). SERRF is an asset to the Long Beach community, as it enables Long Beach to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with municipal solid waste disposal, and creates clean baseload energy. The City is opposed to unnecessary policy changes that make it difficult to obtain a sustainable rate contract for energy sales from the facility.

California has already taken groundbreaking measures to adopt, establish and implement the nation's first Cap and Trade Program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with the passage and enactment of AB 32, SB 375 and SB 1368. The proposal within AB 180 to replace existing greenhouse gases emission performance standards for baseload generation, which were established by SB 1368 (Perata) – Chapter 595, Statutes of 2006, with greenhouse gases emission performance standards that have yet to be developed through a rulemaking process by the California Public Utility Commissions for non-peaking (baseload) generation and peaking generation, complicates the State's new Cap and Trade program. The bill also jeopardizes the economic viability of SERRF, which is a facility that actually *reduces* greenhouse gas emissions.

SERRF is an asset to the Long Beach community. The technology that is integrated into the waste-to-energy facility at SERRF produces clean baseload power, and includes a system of complex computer monitors that track pollutant data whenever the facility operates. Layers of shut-off mechanisms are also integrated into the system as precautionary measures to safeguard against any adverse unforeseen pollution issues. This pollution control system consistently removes 99.5% of particulate matter from the waste-to-energy disposal process.

The SERRF facility also enables Long Beach to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with the disposal of 1,300 tons of municipal solid waste daily. This technology is recognized by the United States EPA as a "clean, reliable, renewable source of energy" that "produces electricity with less environmental impact than almost any other source of electricity." Published July 3, 2012, *CalRecycle Review of Waste-to-Energy and Avoided Landfill Methane Emissions*, concludes:

"The three existing California WtE facilities provide net avoided methane emissions over waste otherwise disposed in a California landfill."

It is also important to note that the SERRF facility is the only option for destroying confiscated narcotics between Stanislaus County and the State of Arizona. As a result, cities, counties, the State of California, and federal law enforcement agencies depend on SERRF. The facility itself, depends heavily on energy sales to fund operational costs.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach respectfully opposes SB 180.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick H. West". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Patrick H. West
CITY MANAGER

cc: The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Isadore Hall, III, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, State Assembly, 63rd District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District