



March 12, 2010

Mr. Matt Tuchow, President
Commission on the Environment
City and County of San Francisco
11 Grove Street; San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Selection of Solid Waste Disposal Facility

Dear President Tuchow:

I understand that San Francisco is currently considering awarding a new contract for the disposal of municipal solid wastes that cannot currently be reduced, composted or recycled. I commend the City's leadership in aggressively promoting "Zero Waste" and planning for a time at which the City may no longer require any disposal services.

The purpose of my letter is to urge the Commission to also consider the unique opportunity to substantially reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the transport of solid waste from San Francisco to your selected disposal facility and the potential to eliminate reliance on all fossil fuels for such transport.

Advancements in the use of waste-derived material to produce ultra low-carbon transportation fuels appear to present an excellent opportunity for San Francisco to further reduce its carbon footprint while capturing the energy value of organic wastes that have been placed in landfills over many decades. While much of the biogas captured at solid waste landfills has been used to generate electricity for the grid, it is now clear that biogas can also be converted into an ultra low carbon fuel – a fuel that has the lowest carbon intensity of any fuel evaluated by the California Air Resources Board.

The potential for "Zero fossil fuel dependence" on the road to "Zero Waste" is too important to ignore. As an integral part of your current process to select a disposal facility, I urge the Commission to continue its outstanding leadership in sustainability by carefully examining the use of non-fossil fuels to transport solid wastes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Warner B. Chabot, CEO
California League of Conservation Voters

cc: Commissioners Angelo King; Jane Marie-Francis Martin; Alan Mok; Paul Pelosi Jr.; Johanna Wald
David Assmann, Acting Director; Ruth Gravanis, Vice-President

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