The County has been successful in meeting the solid waste management needs of its residents and businesses. In its unincorporated communities, the County provides a curbside collection of trash, recyclables, and green waste for one million residents and a commercial franchise system that serves 20,000 businesses and multi-family residences.

Working collaboratively with the unincorporated communities and the waste management industry, the County continues to comply with State recycling laws that require that it divert 50 percent of its waste from landfills. However, with over 10 million residents and hundreds of thousands of businesses across the County, we continue to dispose of nearly 9 million tons of solid waste per year. Available landfill space for this waste is rapidly decreasing and there are no proposals for new landfills under consideration.

The County must be proactive and develop innovative policies and procedures for waste management that decrease our reliance on landfills by maximizing the recovery of products, materials and energy from waste that would otherwise be disposed.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Department of Public Works, in coordination with the Chief Executive Office, the Office of Sustainability, and the Departments of Regional Planning, Internal Services, Public Health, Health Services, and Sheriff’s Department, and in consultation with the County Sanitation Districts, to establish a Working Group and develop a Roadmap for the unincorporated areas of the County of Los Angeles to achieve a Sustainable Waste Management future; and

2. Direct the Department of Public Works to submit the Roadmap, including recommended strategies and disposal reduction targets, to the Board within six months.

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