



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
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DEAN D. EFSTATHIOU  
CHAIRMAN

April 28, 2008

The Honorable Sandre Swanson  
State Capitol, Room 6012  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0016

The Honorable Loni Hancock  
State Capitol, Room 4126  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0014

Dear Assembly Members Swanson and Hancock:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 501 (AMENDED MARCH 13, 2008)  
EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROPER DISPOSAL OF PREFILLED  
SYRINGES**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) appreciates your efforts to extend producer responsibility by authoring Assembly Bill 501 (AB 501). The Task Force **supports AB 501 and requests that you amend** the bill, which among other things, would require pharmaceutical manufacturers of prefilled syringes, prefilled pen needles, or other prefilled injection devices to provide at users request, either a container for the safe disposal of the used sharps or a postage prepaid mail-back sharp container.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939, as amended), the Task Force is responsible for coordinating the development of all major solid waste planning documents prepared for the County of Los Angeles and its 88 cities in Los Angeles County with a combined population in excess of ten million. Consistent with these responsibilities, and to ensure a coordinated, cost-effective, and environmentally-sound solid waste management system in Los Angeles County, the Task Force also addresses issues impacting the system on a Countywide basis. The Task Force membership includes representatives of the League of California Cities-Los Angeles County Division, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, the City of Los Angeles, the waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

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Analysis prepared by the staff of the Assembly Health Committee estimates that nearly 400 million medical sharps are disposed of in California's landfills each year. These sharps pose a significant risk of injury and/or infection to children, and solid waste and recycling facility employees when improperly disposed. AB 501, if enacted, would require pharmaceutical manufacturers of prefilled syringes, prefilled pen needles, or other prefilled injection devices to provide users a container, **at their request**, for the safe disposal of these used sharps or a postage prepaid, mail-back sharp container (**emphasis added**). With the ban on sharp disposal imminent in the coming months, the Task Force requests you amend current language to require sharps manufacturers to provide an automatic mail-back or other disposal options, as currently specified in the bill's language, to **all** customers who are prescribing to any of the above mentioned sharps devices.

Therefore, the Task Force **supports AB 501 and requests that you amend** the bill as indicated in the foregoing paragraph. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



Margaret Clark, Vice-Chair

Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/  
Integrated Waste Management Task Force and  
Council Member, City of Rosemead

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cc: Assembly Member Mervyn Dymally  
Senate President pro Tem Don Perata  
Each Member of the Senate Health Committee  
California Integrated Waste Management Board  
California Department of Public Health  
California State Association of Counties  
League of California Cities  
League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division  
California Product Stewardship Council  
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors  
Each City Mayor in Los Angeles County  
Southern California Association of Governments  
Gateway Cities Council of Governments  
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments  
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services  
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force