



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
P.O. BOX 1460, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460
www.lacountyiswmtf.org

DEAN D. EFSTATHIOU
CHAIRMAN

May 27, 2008

The Honorable Jared Huffman
State Capitol, Room 4139
Sacramento, CA 94249-0006

Dear Assembly Member Huffman:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 1860 (AMENDED MAY 23, 2008)
UNSAFE PRODUCTS: RECALL OR WARNING**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Assembly Bill 1860 (AB 1860), which would, among other things, require the manufacturer of a recalled product to properly dispose of the product and not export the product or permit it to be exported for disposal in a manner that poses a significant risk to the public health or the environment.

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.

AB 1860 if enacted, would among other things, prohibit retailers from selling products that are deemed unsafe, and require a manufacturer whose product is recalled to initiate specified steps within 24 hours to notify consumers of the product's recall, either directly or through information posted on their website or at the retail location where the product was sold. It would provide consumers with the necessary means to return recalled products back to the manufacturer at no cost to the end consumer or product retailer, and require the product manufacturer to properly dispose of its product in compliance with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances.

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Every year, millions of common household products are subject to recall. Recent news accounts have highlighted the potential unintended consequences of recalled products found to be contaminated with hazardous materials that may be improperly disposed. At present, State and Federal laws do not require manufacturers whose products are subject to recall to ensure that their products are properly disposed. AB 1860 would remediate this situation by requiring manufacturers to ensure that their recalled products are properly disposed and not haphazardly tossed into our local landfills, where their product can threaten public health and safety, or sent to other locations where environmental laws may not fully protect the environment from these contaminated products.

AB 1860 is a positive step in shifting California towards manufacturer responsibility for the full life cycle of products, rather than burdening local governments and taxpayers, thereby reducing public costs and driving improvements in product design that promote environmental sustainability and safety. Therefore, the Task Force **supports** AB 1860. 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: Speaker of the Assembly Karen Bass
Each Member of the Assembly
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation
California Integrated Waste Management Board
California State Association of Counties
The League of California Cities
The League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles' Board of Supervisors
Each City Mayor in Los Angeles County
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
Southern California Association of Governments
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force