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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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July 2, 2014

The Honorable Das Williams
State Capitol, Room 4005
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Lou Correa
State Capitol, Room 5061
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Williams and Senator Correa:

**OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED
ASSEMBLY BILL 2284 (AMENDED MAY 27, 2014)
RECYCLING: HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **opposes** AB 2284 **unless amended**. In its current form, AB 2284 would require the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to develop and fund three local battery recycling pilot programs throughout the state. As an active supporter of extended producer responsibility (EPR), the Task Force was in full support of previous versions of this bill which would have required battery manufacturers to create a take back program for consumers of batteries to be paid for by battery manufacturers.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939 [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 the 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, County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, City of Los Angeles, waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

The Task Force has been an ardent supporter of EPR legislation throughout the years. EPR legislation alleviates the burden imposed on local governments in managing products at the end of their useful life while shifting that responsibility over to the manufacturers and producers of those products. The April 22, 2014, amended version of AB 2284 was a supportable piece of EPR legislation; however, it was unfortunately

“gutted and amended” in the Assembly Appropriations Committee to its current form, dated May 27, 2014.

An effective legislative effort to adequately address battery recycling should provide a privately financed mechanism for household battery producers to design and operate an EPR program to collect and properly manage batteries. The manufacturers can more efficiently collect and recycle their own products; thereby, substantially reducing the costs borne by local government agencies while offering more accessible recycling opportunities for the public. AB 2284 should allow for appropriate oversight and enforcement by CalRecycle, which would present a middle ground of private and public sector responsibility—a characteristic of well written EPR legislation. AB 2284 should also require consistent and robust public outreach, proper financing, and clear recycling performance goals tied to specific dates. Moreover, a collection system should allow producers to recover scarce and valuable materials that would otherwise be lost to landfills. The May 27, 2014, amended version of the bill only delays action towards these principles while local governments and ultimately tax payers continue to shoulder the entire burden.

As such, the Task Force respectfully request that AB 2284 be amended to the April 22, 2014 version.

For these reasons, the Task Force **opposes** AB 2284 **unless amended**. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



Margaret Clark, Vice-Chair
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste management Task Force and
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Rosemead

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cc: Senator Jerry Hill, Chair, Senate Environmental Committee
Each Member of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee & Consultant
Each Member of the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities
League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division
Southern California Association of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
California Product Stewardship Council
Each Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County
Each Member of Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force