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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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June 18, 2019

The Honorable Benjamin Allen, Chair
Senate Committee on Environmental Quality
State Capitol, Room 2205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senate Member Allen:

SUPPORT – ASSEMBLY BILL 142 (CRISTINA GARCIA) AS AMENDED ON MAY 22, 2019 – LEAD-ACID BATTERIES

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Assembly Bill 142 (AB 142), as amended on May 22, 2019. If enacted, the proposed legislation, among other things, would:

- Effective April 1, 2022, increases the California Battery Fee on purchase of a replacement lead battery from a \$1.00 to \$2.00.
- During the period of April 1, 2017 until April 1, 2022, maintains a \$1.00 fee imposed on a manufacture of each lead-acid battery sold at retail in California. Effective April 1, 2022, the lead-acid Battery Manufacture Fee will increase to \$2.00 in perpetuity. A manufacturer is defined as a person who manufactures the lead-acid battery and who sells, offers to sell, or distribute the lead-acid battery in the State. If no person stated above is subject to the State's jurisdiction, then the manufacturer is responsible for payment of the said fee to the State.
- Funds from both manufacturer and specified purchaser fees are currently allocated to the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). This bill would establish a Lead-Acid Battery Recycling Facility Investigation and Cleanup (LABRIC) Program, which would be responsible for identifying areas of the state that are eligible for expenditure of moneys from the Lead-Acid Battery Cleanup Fund for certain purposes, with an unspecified funding allocation. The funds are used by DTSC for investigation, site evaluation, cleanup, removal, monitoring or

other response actions at any areas in the State that may have been contaminated by the operation of a lead-acid battery recycling facility. Currently there are two lead-acid facilities in Los Angeles County; Exide Technologies facility in Vernon [currently closed] and Quemetco, Inc., recycling facility in the unincorporated areas adjacent to the City of Industry. Exide facility is currently undergoing cleanup activities via a \$176.6 million loan/funding from State General Fund to DTSC. The proposed legislation will maintain the current funding allocation for the cleanup activities; however, it will provide funds toward repayment of the Exide \$176.6 million cleanup fund if and at such time that all lead-acid battery recycling sites in California are investigated and cleanup activities are completed.

- Create a grant program, to be managed by the state Department of Resources Recycling and Recover (CalRecycle), which would provide funding to qualified industries, for the implementation a lead-acid battery recycling awareness plan that includes the creation of a program to develop and implement a public education program to inform consumers regarding the availability of lead-acid battery recycling, promote the safe and environmentally sound collection of lead-acid batteries by retailers in the state, and promote the safe and environmentally sound recycling of lead-acid batteries collected by retailers and others in the state. For Fiscal Year 2019–20, the bill allocates an appropriation of \$500,000 from the Lead-Acid Battery Cleanup Fund to CalRecycle to establish funding for the grant program.

The Task Force strongly supports the proposed legislation because it would continue the state efforts to clean up all contaminated lead-acid battery sites, and to protect these sites' neighboring residents and children. Additionally, the proposal provides for a permanent revenue source to provide for the cost of cleanup activities.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939), 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 and 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.

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Based on the foregoing, the Task Force **supports** AB 142. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer, a member of the Task Force, at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or at (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



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

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cc: Assembly Member Cristina Garcia
Each Member and staff of the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities – Los Angeles County Division
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Sachi A. Hamai, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
Westside Cities Council of Governments
Each City Mayor and City Manager in the County of Los Angeles
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force