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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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April 2, 2019

The Honorable Bill Quirk, Chair
Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials
1020 N Street, Room 171
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Quirk:

**SUPPORT – ASSEMBLY BILL 1509 (MULLIN AND BERMAN) AS INTRODUCED
FEBRUARY 22, 2019 – SOLID WASTE: RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES:
RECHARGEABLE CONSUMER PRODUCTS**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Assembly Bill 1509 (AB 1509), Solid Waste: Rechargeable Batteries: Rechargeable Consumer Products, introduced on February 22, 2019. The proposed legislation, if enacted, would amend the California Dry Cell Battery Management Act by requiring manufacturers of products with a non-removable rechargeable battery to provide disassembly information to recyclers of rechargeable consumer products. This would reduce/eliminate the potential for these batteries entering solid waste stream, which when punctured can cause fires and/or explosions that have significantly damaged waste hauler trucks, Material Recovery Facilities and other solid waste management facilities.

Usage of rechargeable and non-removable rechargeable batteries (mostly Lithium-ion) is on the rise: around 95 percent of Americans own a mobile phone, and almost 50 percent have handheld gadgets such as e-readers. Call2Recycle's latest market survey found that 60 percent of consumers throw away some or all of their single-use batteries and 15 percent do the same with rechargeable batteries. This bill would also ensure proper recycling to reduce any contamination and improve the quality of recycled materials diverted from solid waste facilities that necessitated the disposal of those materials to avoid any public health threat.

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

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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.

Based on the foregoing, the Task Force **supports** AB 1509. 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 Pro Tem, City of Rosemead

PG:EC:mq

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cc: Assembly Member Mullin
Assembly Member Berman
Senator Hill
Assembly Member Bloom
Assembly Member Eggman
Each Member and staff of the Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials
Andrew Zingale, Office of Assembly Member Mullin
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