



MARK PESTRELLA, CHAIR
MARGARET CLARK, VICE - CHAIR

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

June 27, 2019

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

Dear Senator Allen:

**SUPPORT IF AMENDED / OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED –
ASSEMBLY BILL 792 (TING) AS AMENDED ON JUNE 20, 2019 – RECYCLING:
PLASTIC CONTAINERS: MINIMUM RECYCLED CONTENT AND LABELING**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports if amended/opposes unless amended** Assembly Bill 792 (AB 792), as amended on June 20, 2019, if amended to address the concerns and recommendations in this letter.

If enacted, the proposed legislation, among other things, would:

1. Require a plastic beverage container filled with a beverage by a beverage manufacturer to contain specified amounts of postconsumer recycled plastic content pursuant to a tiered plan that would require the beverage container to contain no less than 75 percent postconsumer recycled plastic content on and after January 1, 2030. The bill would impose administrative penalties on a beverage manufacturer for a violation of these requirements. The bill would authorize CalRecycle to enforce these provisions and would authorize CalRecycle to conduct audits and inspections of a beverage manufacturer for the purpose of ensuring compliance. The bill would require penalties collected to be deposited in the Recycling Enhancement Penalty Account, which the bill would create. Beginning March 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the proposed legislation.
2. Requires, starting March 1, 2019, and annually thereafter, a manufacturer of a beverage sold in a plastic beverage container to report to CalRecycle, in pounds and by resin type, the amount of virgin plastic and postconsumer recycled plastic used

in the plastic beverage containers filled with a beverage by the beverage manufacturer in the previous year that are sold in the state.

3. Waive the applicability of the state current labeling requirement of a code indicating the plastic resin used to produce the product to rigid plastic containers or rigid plastic bottles that are medical devices, medical products that are required to be sterile, prescription medicine, and packaging used for those products.

California, has not sufficiently developed needed infrastructure and markets for recycled plastic content materials. This deficiency has recently been further compounded due to the China adopted “National Sword” policy, and similar policies by other Pacific-Rim countries, in order to reduce “contamination” of collected recyclable materials. However, the elimination of the current labeling plastic code to identify the plastic product’s resin type, as proposed by this Bill, will further increase the level of contaminations and most likely cause affected products to be shipped to landfills and not recycled. This is contrary to our attempts to reduce disposal rate through “contamination” reduction and thus is being opposed by the Task Force. Therefore, the Task Force respectfully request that the proposed legislation be amended to remove the proposed new Section 18017 of the Public Resources Code.

The Task Force has been a consistent proponent of expanding recycling markets, and by establishing a high level postconsumer recycled plastic content minimum standard in the manufacturing of plastic beverage containers the proposal, if modified to incorporate the suggested amendment, will greatly provide for the much-needed expansion of the recycled plastic market.

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.

The Honorable Benjamin Allen

June 27, 2019

Page 3

Based on the foregoing, the Task Force **supports if amended/opposes unless amended** AB 792 as indicated on this letter. 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

EC:pg:mq

P:\epub\Budget\TASK FORCE\Task Force\Letters\2019\June\AB 792 – Support if Amended-Oppose unless Amended – LA County Waste Management TF to SEN EQ Final

cc: Assembly Member Ting
Assembly Member Irwin
Each Member and staff of the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities
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