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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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June 29, 2017

The Honorable Ed Hernandez, Chair
Senate Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 2191
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Hernandez:

SUPPORT ASSEMBLY BILL 954 (CHIU): FOOD LABELING: GUIDELINES: QUALITY AND SAFETY DATES

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) is pleased to **support** Assembly Bill 954 (AB 954), as amended on, May 4, 2017. If enacted, AB 954 would require the Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to publish guidelines to encourage voluntary uniform quality and safety dates on food labels.

Food is one of the most prevalent items currently being disposed at landfills in the State and a major contributor of greenhouse gas emissions. The lack of standardized date labels largely contributes to consumer misinterpretation and unnecessary food waste. Consumers find it confusing to decipher ambiguous label language that does not clearly indicate food freshness or safety. Prematurely discarding edible food is a misuse of valuable resources and a financial burden to consumers. AB 954, will help reduce food waste and contribute to achieve the State's ambitious organic waste diversion and food recovery goals.

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

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County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, City of Los Angeles, the waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

For the foregoing reasons, the Task Force **supports** AB 954. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, 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
Council Member, City of Rosemead

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cc: Assembly Member David Chiu
Each Member of the Senate Committee on Health
Senate Committee on Health Consultant, Scott Bain
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 Integrated Waste Management Task
Force