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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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June 2, 2022

The Honorable Benjamin Allen, Chair
Senate Committee on Environmental Quality
1021 O Street, Suite 3230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Allen:

**SUPPORT – ASSEMBLY BILL 2440 (IRWIN) AS AMENDED ON APRIL 27, 2022 –
RESPONSIBLE BATTERY RECYCLING ACT OF 2022**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) is pleased to **support** Assembly Bill 2440 (AB 2440), as amended on April 27, 2022.

If enacted, the proposed legislation, among other things, would enact the Responsible Battery Recycling Act of 2022 (ACT), requiring producers of covered batteries, as defined, and covered battery-embedded products, as defined, to either individually or through the creation of one or more stewardship organizations, establish a stewardship program for the free and convenient collection and recycling of covered batteries and covered battery-embedded products. The bill would require a producer or stewardship organization to develop and submit a stewardship plan for review and approval for the covered batteries and battery-embedded products. The bill would require a stewardship organization or producer to have a complete stewardship plan approved by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) on or before December 31, 2025. Furthermore, the bill would require CalRecycle, on or before January 1, 2025, and in consultation with the State Department of Toxic Substances Control, to adopt regulations to implement the ACT. Additionally, the proposed legislation would provide for enforcement of the ACT, including authorizing CalRecycle to impose an administrative civil penalty on a stewardship organization, producer, manufacturer, distributor, retailer, importer, recycler, or collection site in violation of the ACT not to exceed \$10,000 per day, unless the violation is intentional, knowing, or reckless, then in that case not to exceed \$50,000 per day.

The Task Force is in support of this measure as it would create a proper and safe collection program for batteries and products embedded with batteries which are often discarded in curbside solid waste containers or recyclable bins posing battery fire threats to solid waste collection personnel, transportation vehicles, and recycling facilities.

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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.

Based on the foregoing, the Task Force **supports** AB 2440 as amended on April 27, 2022. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer, a member of the Task Force, at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



Sam Shammas, Vice-Chair
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

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cc: Assembly Member (Irwin, Lee, Mullin, Petrie-Norris, Stone, Ting, Wicks)
Senator (Archuleta, Becker, Eggman, Newman, Wieckowski, Wiener)
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
Fesia A. Davenport, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Westside Cities Council of Governments
Each City Mayor and Manager in the County of Los Angeles
Each City Recycling Coordinator in the County of Los Angeles
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force