



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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DEAN D. EFSTATHIOU
CHAIRMAN

September 3, 2008

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of the State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger

**ASSEMBLY BILL 501 (ENROLLED AUGUST 18, 2008)
EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROPER DISPOSAL OF PREFILLED
SYRINGES**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **respectfully requests your signature** on Assembly Bill 501 (AB 501). AB 501 would, among other things, require a pharmaceutical manufacturer upon consumer request, to provide a sharps container, a coupon for a sharps container, or a toll-free telephone number or website that directs the patient to a sharps container supplier.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (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 its 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-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, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, the City of Los Angeles, the waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

It is estimated that nearly 400 million medical sharps are disposed of in California's landfills each year. When disposed, these sharps pose a significant health risk to solid waste collectors, recyclers and landfill workers. As a result, State law (SB 1305, 2006 Statutes) prohibits the disposal of home-generated sharps in a trash, green waste or recycling container, effective September 1, 2008.

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AB 501, if enacted, would provide additional options for the safe and proper management of sharps, by requiring sharps manufacturers to provide customers, upon request, with a sharps container or postage prepaid, mail-back sharp container. To increase the flexibility for manufacturers to comply with this requirement, they may also provide a coupon for a sharps container, or a toll-free telephone number or website that directs the patient to a sharps container supplier. AB 501 would therefore provide residents with a free and convenient way to properly and safely dispose of their home generated sharps.

Therefore, the Task Force **respectfully requests your signature on AB 501**. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force 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

VJ/CS:cw
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cc: Assembly Member Sandre Swanson
Assembly Member Loni Hancock
Assembly Member Mervyn Dymally
Senate President pro Tem Don Perata
Assembly Speaker Karen Bass
California Integrated Waste Management Board
California Department of Public Health
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities
League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division
California Product Stewardship Council
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
Each City Mayor in Los Angeles County
Southern California Association of Governments
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force