



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
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GAIL FARBER, CHAIR  
MARGARET CLARK, VICE CHAIR

March 20, 2014

The Honorable Richard Pan, Chair  
Assembly Health Committee  
State Capitol, Room 6005  
Sacramento CA, 95814

Dear Assembly Member Pan:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 1743 (INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 14, 2014)  
HYPODERMIC NEEDLES AND SYRINGES**

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force), this letter reiterates previously adopted Task Force positions regarding the management of hypodermic needles and syringes (Sharps), which are relevant to Assembly Bill 1743 (AB 1743), as further discussed below.

Existing law authorizes a county or city to authorize a licensed pharmacist registered with the Disease Prevention Demonstration Project to sell or furnish 30 or fewer Sharps to a person 18 years of age or older without a prescription. AB 1743, if enacted, among other things, would authorize a physician, pharmacist, to furnish an unlimited number of Sharps to a person 18 years of age or older, without a prescription or permit and without input from the local county or city. The Task Force recognizes the need to control the spread of potentially deadly or disabling infections, which are caused by the sharing of used Sharps. However, the disposal of used Sharps continues to be a significant operational and financial concern to local governments and private and public refuse collectors as well as operators of solid waste and materials recovery facilities. Injuries caused by used Sharps that are improperly disposed can cause great harm and spread infection to workers managing solid waste and recyclables. In addition, local governments continue to be burdened with the financial responsibility of managing Sharps waste collected at household hazardous waste collection events or other public facilities. AB 1743 would most likely increase the amount of Sharps that enter the waste stream.

To address this concern, the Task Force respectfully requests that the Subdivision 4145(e) of the Business and Professions Code be amended to read as follows (deletions are shown in bold with strikethrough):

4145.5 (e) In order to provide for the safe disposal of hypodermic needles and syringes, a pharmacy or hypodermic needle and syringe exchange program that furnishes nonprescription hypodermic needles and syringes shall provide consumers with one or more of the following disposal options:

(1) It shall establish an onsite, safe, hypodermic needle and syringe collection and disposal program that meets applicable state and federal standards for collection and disposal of medical sharps waste.

(2) It shall furnish, ~~or make available~~, mail-back sharps containers authorized by the United States Postal Service that meet applicable state and federal requirements for the transport of medical sharps waste, and shall provide tracking forms to verify destruction at a certified disposal facility.

(3) It shall furnish, ~~or make available~~, a sharps container that meets applicable state and federal standards for collection and disposal of medical sharps waste.

The intent of the Task Force's proposed revisions is to clearly shift the burden of collection and disposal of these additional distributed sharps from local governments, who are already financially strapped, to manufacturers of sharps and the pharmaceuticals administered with sharps, as well as the distributors of these products. The Task Force strongly believes that the said entities should fully participate in the effort to properly manage those products at the end of their useful life.

At their monthly meeting held on March 20, 2014, the Task Force discussed the proposed legislation and considered taking a position of "Support if Amended, Opposed Unless Amended," but was not able to establish a quorum that would have allowed them to take a formal official position on AB 1743. The Task Force anticipates considering and voting to adopt a formal position consistent with concerns/requests expressed above at its next monthly meeting scheduled for April 17, 2014. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147 or [MikeMohajer@yahoo.com](mailto:MikeMohajer@yahoo.com).

Sincerely,



Margaret Clark, Vice-Chair  
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/  
Integrated Waste Management Task Force and  
Council Member, City of Rosemead

cc: Assembly Member Philip Y. Ting  
Each Member of the Assembly Health Committee  
Dr. Ron Chapman, Director, California Department of Public Health  
Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding, Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
Mitchell Kushner, Health Officer, City of Long Beach Department of Public Health  
Dr. Eric G. Walsh, Director/Health Officer, City of Pasadena Department of Public Health  
Leonard Grossberg, Director/Health Officer, City of Vernon Department of Public Health  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation  
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors  
Each City Mayor and City Manager in the County of Los Angeles  
California State Association of Counties  
League of California Cities  
League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division  
California Product Stewardship Council  
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

The Honorable Richard Pan  
March 20, 2014  
Page 3

South Bay Cities Council of Governments  
Gateway Cities Council of Governments  
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force