



MARK PESTRELLA, CHAIR
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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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July 16, 2020

The Honorable Bill Quirk, Chair
Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials
Legislative Office Building
1020 N Street, Room 171
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Quirk:

**SUPPORT – SENATE BILL 1156 (ARCHULETA) AS AMENDED ON JUNE 18, 2020 –
LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES: ILLEGAL DISPOSAL: FIRE PREVENTION**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Senate Bill 1156 (SB 1156), as amended on June 18, 2020.

SB 1156, if enacted, would prohibit a person from knowingly disposing of a lithium-ion battery in the garbage or recycling streams, unless the container or receptacle is designated for the collection of batteries for recycling. The bill requires the Resources Recycling and Recovery Department of California (CalRecycle), in consultation with the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), to develop a guidance document on the proper handling and disposal of lithium-ion batteries and products that contain lithium-ion batteries. The bill also requires the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to develop a model protocol and training for identifying best practices for preventing and suppressing fires caused by lithium-ion batteries and requires solid waste enterprises to adopt a protocol with procedures for the same purpose.

The Task Force supports the proposed legislation because its goals are to reduce the number of lithium-ion batteries that are being illegally sent to solid waste landfills by consumers; to increase the recycling of lithium-ion batteries; and to identify best practices for the detection, safe handling, and suppression of fires that originate from discarded lithium-ion batteries and products. According to the California Product Stewardship Council in 2018, 83 percent of waste facilities reported a fire in the past two years, 65 percent were started by batteries, and 40 percent of those fires were started by lithium-ion batteries.

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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** SB 1156 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

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cc: Senator Archuleta
Each Member and staff of the Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials
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 the County of Los Angeles
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force