



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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March 28, 2016

The Honorable Bob Wieckowski, Chair
Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol Room 2205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Wieckowski:

**SENATE BILL 1229 (INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 18, 2016)
PHARMACIES: DRUG TAKE-BACK BINS: SUPPORT**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Senate Bill 1229 (SB 1229). The Task Force supports efforts to provide for proper collection and disposal of unwanted/used pharmaceuticals to protect public health & safety as well as the reduction of water and environmental contamination. If enacted, SB 1229 would assist in accomplishing these goals by removing unnecessary civil liability from pharmacies that own or operate a public drug take-back bin in a responsible manner, thereby increasing convenience for the public to safely dispose of unwanted medications. Pharmacists who host drug take-back bins should be able to receive protection from undue civil liability if they follow certain rules for these three important reasons:

- 1) Now that the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency has clear rules on hosting drug take-back bins and proactive counties have adopted or are in the process of adopting ordinances, which establish pharmaceutical take-back programs, this bill will protect the pharmacists and pharmacy chain stores that provide the important community service of providing safe and convenient drug take-back bins to the public.
- 2) The National Governor's Associations Policy Academy on Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention identified safe drug disposal as a key component of the Prescription Drug Abuse Plan in 2014.
- 3) California's water is a precious resource and pollution prevention is much more cost effective than treatment, so preventing improper disposal and flushing of medications is key.

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

Therefore, the Task Force **supports SB 1229**. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or (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 Hannah-Beth Jackson
Senator Jeff Stone
Each Member of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Senate Environmental Quality Committee Consultants (Rebecca Newhouse & Rachel Wagner)
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
San Fernando Valley Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
Westside Cities Council of Governments
California Product Stewardship Council
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