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***** FLOOR ALERT *****

TO: California State Senators

FROM: Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

SUPPORT – SENATE BILL 244 (ARCHULETA) AS INTRODUCED ON JANUARY 21, 2021 – 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 244 (SB 244), as introduced on January 21, 2021.

SB 244, if enacted, would prohibit a person from knowingly disposing of a lithium-ion battery in a container or receptacle that is intended for the collection of solid waste or recyclable materials unless the container or receptacle is designated for the collection of batteries for recycling. The bill requires the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (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 inappropriately 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 Fire Rover's most recent findings for the "2020 Reported Waste & Recycling Facility Fires Annual Report" there were 23 reported injuries and three deaths in the U.S. and Canada.

As provided by AB 939 (1989) and Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code, the Task Force is responsible for coordinating the development of major solid waste planning documents for Los Angeles County and the 88 cities in the County with a population of over ten million. The Task Force addresses issues impacting the solid waste management system on a countywide basis.

Based on the foregoing, the **Task Force SUPPORTS SB 244 and requests your AYE vote on the bill.** 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.