



GAIL FARBER  
CHAIR

LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
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[www.lacountyiswmtf.org](http://www.lacountyiswmtf.org)

January 21, 2009

The Honorable Joe Simitian  
State Capitol, Room 2080  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Simitian:

**SENATE BILL 26 (INTRODUCED DECEMBER 1, 2008)  
EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROPER MANAGEMENT OF HOME-GENERATED  
PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE AND DEVICES**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) appreciates your efforts to expand opportunities for the proper management of home-generated pharmaceutical waste by authoring Senate Bill 26 (SB 26). The Task Force supports SB 26, which among other things, would allow the pharmacies to accept home-generated pharmaceutical waste and devices from the public.

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.

According to the Product Stewardship Institute, millions of pharmaceuticals become waste each year as products expire or become unwanted. Improper management of home-generated pharmaceuticals can result in environmental contamination and may be linked to abnormalities and impaired reproductive performance. Currently, there is a lack of awareness of the proper way to manage unwanted home-generated pharmaceuticals and a lack of convenient and appropriate locations for use by residents. When residents improperly dispose of pharmaceutical products, there are also potential safety risks to the general public and to solid waste collection workers.

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Currently, there are legislative and regulatory obstacles to implement comprehensive programs for management of home-generated pharmaceutical wastes. SB 26, if enacted, would expand opportunities for the proper management of home-generated pharmaceutical waste and devices, creating a pathway to implement convenient programs for the safe management of these wastes. Therefore, the Task Force supports SB 26 since it protects public health and safety as well as the environment. If you have any question, 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

AK:cw

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cc: Senate President pro Tem Darrel Steinberg  
Each Member of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Each Member of the California Integrated Waste Management Board  
California Integrated Waste Management Board (Mark Leary, Howard Levenson,  
Fernando Berton, Jeff Lin)  
Executive Director of the California Pharmacy Board (Virginia Harold)  
California Department of Public Health (Dr. Mark Horton, Kelvin Yamada)  
California State Association of Counties  
League of California Cities  
League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division  
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 (Dr. Jonathan Fielding,  
Angelo Belomo, Anna Long, Kenneth Murray)  
County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Steve Maguin)  
City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation  
(Enrique Zaldivar, Dan Meyers)  
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