



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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DONALD L. WOLFE
CHAIRMAN

September 26, 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of the State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

**SENATE BILL 966 (ENROLLED SEPTEMBER 11, 2007)
MODEL PROGRAMS FOR PHARMACEUTICAL DRUG DISPOSAL**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **requests your signature** on Senate Bill 966 (SB 966), which would require until January 1, 2013, that the California Integrated Waste Management Board (Waste Board) develop in consultation with appropriate state, local, and federal agencies, model programs for the collection and proper disposal of household generated pharmaceutical drug waste

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 10 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, 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.

SB 966, if enacted, would help to establish a means for which the public may return and ensure the safe and environmentally sound disposal of pharmaceutical drugs by requiring the Waste Board to identify and develop model programs for the safe disposal of household generated pharmaceutical drug waste. Often pharmaceutical drugs end up disposed of in the toilet or thrown in the trash. Unused medications that are flushed down the toilet can damage the proper operation of sewage treatment facilities, or when placed in drains can

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eventually enter local waterways. According to a United States Geological Survey in 2002, 80 percent of streams sampled contained measurable concentrations of prescription and nonprescription drugs, steroids, and reproductive hormones. Exposure even at low levels has been shown to have negative effects on fish and aquatic species.

Unlike other types of hazardous waste or medical waste, currently there is no law to regulate effectively the proper disposal of pharmaceutical drugs by residents. SB 966 would provide a means to address this shortfall on a temporary basis through January 1, 2013, or until a permanent program has been established.

Therefore, the Task Force **requests your signature** on SB 966. If you have any questions, 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

VJ:cw
P:\Sec\SB 966 governor

cc: Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata
Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez
Senator Joseph Simitian
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation
California Integrated Waste Management Board
California Department of Public Health
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
Each City Mayor in the County of Los Angeles
Each Member of the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities
League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division
Southern California Association of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force