



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

January 7, 2008

The Honorable Sandre Swanson  
State Capitol, Room 6012  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0016

The Honorable Loni Hancock  
State Capitol, Room 4126  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0014

Dear Assembly Members Swanson and Hancock:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 501 (AMENDED JUNE 21, 2007)  
PROPER DISPOSAL OF SYRINGES**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **continues to support** Assembly Bill 501 (AB 501), which is scheduled to be considered by the Assembly Health Committee on January 15, 2008. Among other things, this bill would require pharmaceutical manufacturers of prefilled syringes, prefilled pen needles, or other prefilled injection devices to provide users a container for the safe disposal of these used sharps.

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 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.

Analysis prepared by the staff of the Assembly Health Committee estimates that nearly 400 million medical sharps are disposed of in California's landfills each year. These sharps pose a significant risk of injury and/or infection to children, and solid waste and recycling

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facility employees when improperly disposed. AB 501, if enacted, would require pharmaceutical manufacturers of prefilled syringes, prefilled pen needles, or other prefilled injection devices to provide users a container for the safe disposal of these used sharps. AB 501 would also require that the container have a sticker with a toll free telephone number that identifies safe disposal methods. Furthermore, it would make available an optional mail-back program upon request for proper sharp treatment and disposal, thereby significantly reducing the public health risks associated with improper disposal while promoting product stewardship.

Therefore, the Task Force **continues to support** AB 501. 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/CS:kp

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cc: Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez  
Assembly Member Lori Hancock  
Assembly Member Mervyn Dymally  
Each Member of the Assembly Health Committee  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation  
California Department of Health Services  
California Department of Public Health  
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles' Board of Supervisors  
Each City Mayor in Los Angeles County  
California State Association of Counties  
League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division  
South Bay Cities Council of Governments  
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments  
Gateway Cities Council of Governments  
Southern California Association of Governments  
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
City of Long Beach Department of Health & Human Services  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force  
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County