




MARK PESTRELLA, PE, CHAIR  
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LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
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June 4, 2025

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Mark Pestrella, PE, Chair   
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Committee/  
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

**REQUEST FOR COUNTY ADVOCACY TO SUPPORT  
SENATE BILL 45 (PADILLA) RECYCLING: BEVERAGE CONTAINERS:  
TETHERED PLASTIC CAPS**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) is writing to express its strong support for Senate Bill (SB) 45 (Padilla, 2025). SB 45 would eliminate the existing authorization for the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to provide an incentive payment to qualified recyclers of up to \$180 per ton of thermoform plastic containers diverted from curbside recycling programs. This bill would require, starting January 1, 2027, that plastic beverage containers with a plastic cap, offered for sale in the State, have a tethered cap that prevents the separation of the cap from the container. This bill would exempt beverage containers with a capacity of two liters or more and beverage containers that contain beer or other malt beverages, wine or distilled spirits, or 100 percent fruit juice.

The Task Force appreciates the action of Los Angeles County (County) to support legislation that promote climate resiliency and provide sufficient funding to encourage and incentivize production, methods, technologies, and jobs that advance clean manufacturing, reduce greenhouse gases; and those that fund or promote projects that mitigate the effects of climate change, advance regenerative urban agriculture, improve cooling strategies, reduce environmental pollutants, strengthen natural spaces within communities, and increase heat relief access in underserved areas such as SB 45. The Task Force urges the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to engage in supporting this legislation as it would provide a well-structured framework for combating litter. Its emphasis on funding, enforcement, prevention, and collaboration makes it a powerful tool for safeguarding public health and the environment, creating cleaner, safer, and more sustainable communities.

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SB 45 aims to reduce plastic litter by requiring beverage containers under 2 liters to have tethered caps that remain attached to their bottles throughout their lifecycle. This measure directly addresses the issue of plastic cap pollution, which is one of the most commonly littered items on California beaches. By ensuring caps stay connected to bottles, the bill is expected to cut plastic cap litter by 50 percent and double the recycling rate for plastic caps, preventing them from being discarded separately and reducing their likelihood of ending up in landfills or waterways.

For local governments, SB 45 could lead to cost savings by reducing the burden of litter cleanup and waste management. Plastic caps often escape recycling facilities due to their small size, leading to additional costs for municipalities that must manage their clean up and disposal. By keeping caps attached, the bill improves material recovery, ensuring more plastic is properly recycled rather than becoming litter and waste. Additionally, aligning California's policy with international best practices, such as the European Union's successful tethered cap regulation, could streamline recycling processes and reduce inefficiencies.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939), the Task Force is responsible for coordinating the development of all major solid waste planning documents prepared for the County and the 88 cities in the 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 the 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, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, City of Los Angeles, waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

If you have any questions, please contact Jocelyn Stark at (626) 458-6521 or [JStark@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:JStark@pw.lacounty.gov).

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Attach.

cc: Chief Executive Office (Fesia A. Davenport)  
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/  
Integrated Waste Management Task Force



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
RELATIONS**

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**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
Fesia A. Davenport

**ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
Samara Ashley

**Legislative Summary / Findings  
SB 45 (Padilla) – As Amended on February 24, 2025  
Recycling: beverage containers: tethered plastic caps.**

**Summary:** This bill would eliminate the existing authorization for the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to provide an incentive payment to qualified recyclers of up to \$180 per ton of thermoform plastic containers diverted from curbside recycling programs. This bill would require, starting January 1, 2027, that plastic beverage containers with a plastic cap, offered for sale in the state, have a tethered cap that prevents the separation of the cap from the container. This bill would exempt beverage containers with a capacity of two liters or more and beverage containers that contain beer or other malt beverages, wine or distilled spirits, or 100-percent fruit juice.

**Commission Recommendation:** None.

**CEO Legislative Affairs Findings:** There is existing Board-approved policy related to proposals that mitigate the effects of climate change and reduce environmental pollutants.

**Bill Status:** SB 45 is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality on March 19, 2025.

March 5, 2025