




LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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MARK PESTRELLA, PE, CHAIR
MARGARET CLARK, VICE-CHAIR

May 11, 2026

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 501 (ALLEN) RESPONSIBLE BATTERY RECYCLING ACT OF 2022:
COVERED BATTERIES**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) is writing to express our support for Senate Bill (SB) 501 (Allen, 2026). SB 501, as amended on March 24, 2026, expands the definition of a "loose battery" under the Responsible Battery Recycling Act of 2022 to include batteries that can be removed with common household tools. Additionally, the bill increases the scope of the Act to include batteries weighing up to 25 pounds, removing existing exclusions for non-rechargeable batteries over 2 kilograms and rechargeable batteries over 5 kilograms or 300 watt-hours. By categorizing all covered batteries as either "small-format" or "medium-format," this legislation ensures that larger, high-energy batteries are subject to the same rigorous collection and recycling standards as smaller ones, preventing them from improperly entering the municipal waste stream.

The Task Force appreciates the action of Los Angeles County (County) to support legislation that encourages and incentivizes clean manufacturing and promotes projects that reduce environmental pollutants. The Task Force urges the County Board of Supervisors to engage in supporting SB 501, which not only protects our communities from hazardous waste and fire risks but also supports a sustainable circular economy by ensuring that producers prioritize safe product design and end-of-life management.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code, and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, Assembly Bill 939, the Task Force is responsible for coordinating the development of all major solid waste planning documents

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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, County of Los Angeles 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, Chief, Administrative Operations at (626) 458-6521 or jstark@pw.lacounty.gov.

PG:bs

P:\SEC\EP4\SB 501 SUPPORT LAC IWMTF TO BOS

Attach.

cc: Chief Executive Office (Joseph M. Nicchitta, Interim CEO)
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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Joseph M. Nicchitta

ACTING BRANCH MANAGER
Angela Ovalle

Legislative Summary / Findings
SB 501 (Allen) – As Amended on January 14, 2026
Responsible Battery Recycling Act of 2022: Covered Batteries

Background: Current law requires every retailer to establish an extended producer responsibility system in place for the acceptance and collection of used rechargeable batteries for reuse, recycling, or proper disposal. Current law also requires producers of small household batteries to establish a stewardship program for the collection and recycling of covered batteries.

Summary: SB 501 would add to the definition of a loose battery that is covered in the Responsible Battery Recycling Act of 2022 to specify that it includes batteries removed with common household tools. This bill would also expand the scope of the Responsible Battery Recycling Act to include batteries up to 25 pounds, striking existing language that excludes batteries weighing over two kilograms and rechargeable batteries over five kilograms and having over 300 Watt-hours. The bill would further categorize all covered batteries as either a small-format battery or a medium-format battery.

Commission Recommendation: None.

CEO Legislative Affairs Findings: CEO-LAIR issued a pursuit to support SB 501 on April 2, 2025. SB 501 is consistent with the January 14, 2025, Board-adopted [motion](#) to support legislation to establish a statewide household hazard waste extended producer responsibility policy, the goals of the Los Angeles County Zero Waste Plan, and existing policy to support proposals that promote sustainability in waste producer responsibility.

Bill Status: SB 501 is pending referral to a committee in the Assembly.