



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

DONALD L. WOLFE  
CHAIRMAN

June 21, 2007

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

Dear Assembly Member Swanson:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 501 (AMENDED APRIL 30, 2007)  
PROPER DISPOSAL OF SYRINGES**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Assembly Bill 501 (AB 501), which among other things, would require pharmaceutical manufacturers to make available methods for patients to safely dispose of prefilled syringes, pen needles, or other injection devices.

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.

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Each year, nearly 400 million medical sharps are disposed of in California's landfills. These sharps pose a significant risk of injury and/or infection to children, sanitation workers, and solid waste employees when improperly disposed. AB 501, if enacted, would require pharmaceutical manufacturers whose product is dispensed via a prefilled syringe, prefilled pen needle, or other prefilled injection device to provide a means for safe disposal via a mail-back program effective January 1, 2008.

Therefore, the Task Force **supports** AB 501. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,

*Margaret Clark*

Margaret Clark, Vice-Chair  
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/  
Integrated Waste Management Task Force and  
Council Member, City of Rosemead

VJ/CS:cw  
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cc: Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez  
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 the County of Los Angeles  
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force