



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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April 5, 2012

The Honorable Felipe Fuentes, Chair
Assembly Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Fuentes,

**SUPPORT AS AMENDED - ASSEMBLY BILL 1442 (AMENDED MARCH 27, 2012)
PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Assembly Bill 1442 (AB 1442 - Wieckowski). If enacted, this bill would allow pharmaceutical waste, as defined, to be transported by a common carrier as opposed to a medical waste hauler, thereby reducing the costs for hospitals and other medical waste facilities to properly manage their pharmaceutical waste.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939 (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 the 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, 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.

Current law requires pharmaceutical waste to be transported by certified medical waste haulers. Authorizing this waste to be handled by common carriers, with provisions to ensure public health and safety, would significantly reduce the costs for transporting and ultimately managing pharmaceutical waste. Local municipalities' Household Hazardous Waste programs are routinely tasked to collect unwanted pharmaceuticals. AB 1442 would allow this service to be more affordable. Moreover, it would reduce the cost for medical facilities to properly dispose of pharmaceutical waste, thereby reducing the chance of illegal disposal.

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For these reasons, the Task Force **supports** AB 1442. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or (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

CM:fm

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cc: Assembly Member Diana Harkey, Vice-Chair of the Appropriations
Assembly Member Bob Wieckowski
Assembly Member Michael Allen
Assembly Member Das Williams
Each Member of the Assembly Committee on Appropriations
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
San Fernando Valley Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
Westside Cities Council of Governments
Each City Mayor and City Manager in the County of Los Angeles
Each member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force