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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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June 13, 2019

The Honorable Benjamin Allen, Chair
Senate Committee on Environmental Quality
State Capitol, Room 2205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Allen:

**SUPPORT – ASSEMBLY BILL 1509 (MULLIN AND BERMAN) AS AMENDED
MAY 1, 2019 – SOLID WASTE: LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Assembly Bill 1509 (AB 1509), Solid Waste: Lithium-Ion Batteries. The proposed legislation, if enacted, would amend the Electronic Waste Recycling Act of 2003 to allow for the recovery and recycling of lithium-ion batteries and products containing lithium-ion batteries under the Lithium-Ion Battery Recycling Program established by the Act. This would reduce/eliminate the potential for these batteries entering solid waste stream which when punctured cause fires and/or explosions that have significantly damaged waste hauler trucks, Material Recovery Facilities and other solid waste management facilities.

Usage of rechargeable and non-removable rechargeable batteries (mostly Lithium-ion) is on the rise: around 95 percent of Americans own a mobile phone, and almost 50 percent have handheld gadgets such as e-readers. According to Fire Rover, more than 1,700 fires occurred in the United States and Canada in 2017 as a result of lithium-ion batteries. Resource Recycling Systems estimates that between 75 percent and 92 percent of lithium-ion batteries are disposed of improperly. This bill would also ensure proper recycling to reduce any contamination and improve the quality of recycled materials diverted from solid waste facilities that necessitated the disposal of those materials to avoid any public health threat.

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, cost-effective, and environmentally

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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.

Based on the foregoing, the Task Force **supports** AB 1509. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer, a member of the Task Force, at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or at (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



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

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cc: Assembly Member Mullin
Assembly Member Berman
Senator Hill
Assembly Member Bloom
Assembly Member Eggman
Each Member and staff of the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality
Andrew Zingale, Office of Assembly Member Mullin
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities – Los Angeles County Division
Each member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Sachi A. Hamai, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities 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 City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force