



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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GAIL FARBER
CHAIR

September 25, 2009

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of the State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 1173 (ENROLLED SEPTEMBER 21, 2009)
RECYCLING: RESIDENTIAL FLUORESCENT LAMP**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) respectfully requests that you **veto** Assembly Bill 1173 (AB 1173), which among other things, would establish a system for the collection, recycling and disposal of residential fluorescent lights (RFLs) by certain manufacturers, under specified conditions.

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 City of Los Angeles, the waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

According to California's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), approximately 15 million RFLs will require "end of life" management in California in 2009. DTSC also expects this amount will increase in coming years, increasing the need of proper collection, recycling, and disposal of RFLs. The Task Force has been a strong proponent of extended producer responsibility (EPR), a solid waste management principal that advocates for a greater emphasis on producer/manufacturer responsibility for the environmental impact of their products and the waste that is produced, and shifts

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end-of-life management and financial responsibilities from local governments to producers, in order to reduce public costs and drive improvements in product design that promote environmental sustainability.

The Task Force supports efforts to introduce legislation that encourages producers to take greater responsibility for their products. However, AB 1173 would only place responsibility for the proper management of RFLs on manufacturers or distributors that receive a subsidy from the Public Goods Charge, instead of all residential fluorescent light manufacturers. Because AB 1173 only focuses on a part of the RFL market some manufacturers will not be subject to the requirements of the bill, thus leaving local governments to continue to shoulder the full cost of RFL recycling and disposal responsibility. Additionally, as written, AB 1173 allows for a RFL manufacturer to opt out of the recycling requirements if they choose to no longer receive the subsidy or discontinue their respective recycling program once funding for the subsidy is no longer available when incandescent light bulbs are banned from sale in 2012.

Providing a means of true Extended Producer Responsibility requires that all RFL manufacturers take responsibility for their product. Therefore, the Task Force respectfully **requests that you veto** AB 1173. Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force 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

SK/CS:as

cc: Senate President Pro Temp Darnell Steinberg
Assembly Speaker Karen Bass
Senator Dennis Hollingsworth, Minority Leader
Assembly Member Sam Blakeslee, Minority Leader
Assembly Member Jared Huffman
Chief of Staff and Director Cynthia Bryant, Office of Planning and Research
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
Each City Mayor in Los Angeles County

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California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities
California Products Stewardship Council
League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force