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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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May 6, 2014

The Honorable Mike Gatto, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Gatto:

**SUPPORT IF AMENDED/OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED
ASSEMBLY BILL 2284 (AMENDED APRIL 22, 2014)
RECYCLING: HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Assembly Bill 2284 (AB 2284) **if amended and opposes unless amended**. If enacted, AB 2284 would require a producer of single-use household batteries or stewardship organization created by one or more household battery producers to create, finance, and manage a product stewardship/ extended producer responsibility (EPR) system for California consumers to safely and conveniently recycle used and expired primary batteries.

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

The Task Force has been an ardent supporter of EPR legislation throughout the years. EPR legislation alleviates the burden imposed on local governments in managing products at the end of their useful life while shifting that responsibility over to the manufacturers and producers of those products.

AB 2284 would provide a privately financed mechanism for household battery producers to design and operate an EPR program to collect and properly manage batteries. The manufacturers can more efficiently collect and recycle their own products, thereby

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substantially reducing the costs borne by local government agencies while offering more accessible recycling opportunities for the public. AB 2284 allows for appropriate oversight and enforcement by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, which presents a middle ground of private and public sector responsibility—a characteristic of well written EPR legislation. AB 2284 also outlines requirements for consistent and robust public outreach, proper financing, and clear recycling performance goals tied to specific dates. Moreover, the collection system would allow producers to recover scarce and valuable materials that would otherwise be lost to landfills.

However, in the interest of retaining local control for jurisdictions in regards to the management of solid waste, we respectfully request an amendment that would remove Section 42445.16 from the bill. The preemption language should be removed to allow local jurisdictions to pass and enforce ordinances that reflect local conditions that a state-wide law may not encompass.

For these reasons, the Task Force **supports** AB 2284 **if amended and opposes unless amended**. 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

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cc: Assembly Member Das Williams
Senator Lou Correa
Each Member of the Assembly Appropriations Committee and Staff
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation
Each Member of the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities
League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division
Southern California Association of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
California Product Stewardship Council
Each Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County
Each Member of Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force