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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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February 2, 2016

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

LOS ANGELES COUNTY PHARMACEUTICALS AND SHARPS COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL STEWARDSHIP ORDINANCE – SUPPORT

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) strongly supports the Board's adoption of the Los Angeles County Pharmaceuticals and Sharps Collection and Disposal Stewardship Ordinance (Ordinance). As currently drafted, the Ordinance would require manufacturers of pharmaceuticals and sharps to develop stewardship plans to address the collection and disposal of unwanted/unused pharmaceuticals and sharps waste generated by residents. The adoption of such an ordinance is critically needed, because it establishes a sustainably financed program to provide residents with a convenient means to safely dispose of unwanted sharps and pharmaceuticals. It would help to prevent such products from entering the environment, reduce their availability for drug abuse and misuse, and reduce injuries associated with sharps being improperly disposed. With access to safe and convenient disposal options, as well as a robust outreach and education program, residents will be empowered to properly dispose of these products and prevent them from causing additional harm.

The adoption of this Ordinance would also ensure that manufacturers and producers of prescription and nonprescription drugs and sharps share in the responsibility of proper disposal of their products. The Task Force fully supports this shared responsibility approach and strongly opposes other policy measures that would place the financial burden of managing these materials at the end of their useful life solely upon local jurisdictions. We understand the County has conducted multiple stakeholder meetings which included representatives from the manufacturers of these products, retailers, pharmacies, environmental organizations, consumer advocacy groups, waste hauling industry, and others in order to develop the most effective Ordinance.

Pursuant to the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939) and Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code, 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. 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 Board of Supervisors, City of Los Angeles, waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

For the reasons described above, the Task Force strongly urges the Board's adoption of the Ordinance. The Task Force commends the County for the transparent process in which the Ordinance was developed.

Should 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
Mayor, City of Rosemead

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cc: Sachi A. Hamai, Chief Executive Officer
Patrick Ogawa, Acting Executive Officer
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Cynthia Harding, Jeffery
Gunzenhauser and Angelo Bellomo)
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (Gail Farber, Shari Afshari and
Dan Lafferty)
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, City Council Member, and City Manager in the County of Los Angeles
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force