



GAIL FARBER, CHAIR  
MARGARET CLARK, VICE - CHAIR

LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331  
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[www.lacountyiswmtf.org](http://www.lacountyiswmtf.org)

February 2, 2016

TO: All City Mayors, City Council Members, and City Managers, in Los Angeles County

**URGENT REQUEST FOR A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY PHARMACEUTICALS AND SHARPS COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL STEWARDSHIP ORDINANCE**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force strongly urges your City's support for the Los Angeles County Pharmaceuticals and Sharps Collection and Disposal Stewardship Ordinance (Ordinance). The Ordinance was drafted at the direction of the County Board of Supervisors following an investigation of its feasibility, in light of the 2014 decision by the United States Supreme Court not to hear an appeal from the Pharmaceutical industry to oppose a similar ordinance adopted by Alameda County.

Several other counties and jurisdictions in the State have followed Alameda's example in adopting similar ordinances. If enacted, the Ordinance would require the development of stewardship plans to address the pressing need for the safe collection and disposal of unwanted/unused pharmaceuticals and sharps waste generated by residents. The Ordinance would also provide for participation by your City by adopting the requirements of the Ordinance into your City's municipal code (through a resolution).

The Ordinance would establish a sustainably financed program designed to accommodate the needs of residents to safely dispose of discarded/unwanted sharps and pharmaceuticals in a manner that protects the environment as well as the health and safety of the public. It would also serve to effectively prevent these items from being abused/misused while reducing unnecessary injuries resulting from contact with improperly disposed sharps, as well as the contraction and spread of harmful diseases. The Ordinance would also ensure that producers and manufacturers assume a reasonably shared responsibility, in cost and otherwise, for safe and proper disposal at end of their products' useful life. 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.

The Task Force has forwarded a letter in support of the Ordinance to the Board of Supervisors. Enclosed for your use is a sample letter your City may wish to use to express your City's voice in support of this urgent and imperative policy change.

February 2, 2016

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

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at [MikeMohajer@yahoo.com](mailto: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

PH:kk

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cc: League of California Cities, Los Angeles Division  
California Product Stewardship Council  
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 City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County  
Each Member of the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force

**Los Angeles County Pharmaceuticals and Sharps Collection and Disposal  
Stewardship Ordinance**

*Draft Letter of Support to be put on City Letterhead*

Date

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

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

Dear Supervisors:

The City of \_\_\_\_ is in support of Los Angeles County's efforts to adopt a product stewardship ordinance that would provide for the proper collection and disposal of unwanted/unused pharmaceuticals and sharps waste generated by residents. Adoption of this Ordinance is important because it would establish a sustainably financed program that will provide residents with a convenient means to safely dispose of unwanted sharps and pharmaceuticals. It would also help prevent these 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 their materials.

The passage of this Ordinance would ensure that manufacturers and producers of prescription and nonprescription drugs and sharps share in the responsibility of proper disposal of their products. Our City supports this shared responsibility approach and do not want the cost of managing these materials at the end of their useful life solely borne by local jurisdictions.

We understand the County has conducted multiple stakeholder meetings which included representatives from the manufacturers and producers of these materials, retailers, pharmacies, consumer advocacy groups, environmental organizations, waste hauling industry, and others in order to develop the most effective Ordinance.

Following adoption of the Ordinance by the Board, the City of \_\_\_\_\_ is very interested in passing a resolution to adopt this Ordinance so that our City's residents also have access to safe, convenient, and sustainably financed collection and disposal methods of pharmaceuticals and sharps.

Should you have any questions, please contact \_\_\_\_\_.

Sincerely,

XXX, Title  
Organization

cc: Sachi A. Hamai, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer  
Patrick Ogawa, Los Angeles County Acting Executive Officer  
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Angelo Bellomo)  
Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force