



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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GAIL FARBER, CHAIR
MARGARET CLARK, VICE CHAIR

June 18, 2014

The Honorable Ed Hernandez, Chair
Senate Health Committee
State Capitol, Room 2191
Sacramento CA, 95814

Dear Senator Hernandez:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 1743 (AMENDED MAY 27, 2014)
HYPODERMIC NEEDLES AND SYRINGES
OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED/SUPPORT IF AMENDED**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force), **opposes unless amended/supports if amended** Senate Bill 1743 (AB 1743).

Existing law permits pharmacists and physicians to sell or furnish 30 or fewer Sharps to a person 18 years of age or older without a prescription on a pilot program basis until January 1, 2015. AB 1743, if enacted, among other things, would authorize a physician, pharmacist, to furnish an unlimited number of Sharps to a person 18 years of age or older, without a prescription or permit and without input from the local county or city. The bill would also extend the sunset date of the pilot program to January 1, 2021. The Task Force recognizes the need to control the spread of potentially deadly or disabling infections, which are caused by the sharing of used Sharps. However, the disposal of used Sharps continues to be a significant operational and financial concern to local governments and private and public refuse collectors as well as operators of solid waste and materials recovery facilities. Injuries caused by used Sharps that are improperly disposed can cause great harm and spread infection to workers managing solid waste and recyclables. In addition, local governments continue to be burdened with the financial responsibility of managing Sharps waste collected at household hazardous waste collection events or other public facilities. AB 1743 would most likely increase the amount of Sharps that enter the waste stream.

To address this concern, the Task Force respectfully requests that the proposed amendment to Subdivision 4145.5 (e) of the Business and Professions Code to be further modified so that the revised Subdivision would read as follows (deletions are shown in bold with strikethrough):

4145.5 (e) In order to provide for the safe disposal of hypodermic needles and syringes, a pharmacy or hypodermic needle and syringe exchange program that furnishes nonprescription hypodermic needles and syringes shall counsel consumers on a safe disposal and provide consumers with one or more of the following disposal options:

(1) It shall establish an onsite, safe, hypodermic needle and syringe collection and disposal program that meets applicable state and federal standards for collection and disposal of medical sharps waste.

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(2) It shall furnish, ~~or make available~~, mail-back sharps containers authorized by the United States Postal Service that meet applicable state and federal requirements for the transport of medical sharps waste, and shall provide tracking forms to verify destruction at a certified disposal facility.

(3) It shall furnish, ~~or make available~~, a sharps container that meets applicable state and federal standards for collection and disposal of medical sharps waste.

The intent of the Task Force's proposed revisions is to clearly shift the burden of collection and disposal of these additional distributed sharps from local governments, who are already financially strapped, to manufacturers of sharps and the pharmaceuticals administered with sharps, as well as the distributors of these products. The Task Force strongly believes that the said entities should fully participate in the effort to properly manage those products at the end of their useful life.

Therefore, the Task Force **opposes unless amended/supports if amended SB 1743**. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, 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 Pro Tem, City of Rosemead

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cc: Assembly Member Philip Y. Ting
Each Member of the Senate Health Committee & the Committee Consultant
Dr. Ron Chapman, Director, California Department of Public Health
Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding, Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Helene Calvet, Health Officer, City of Long Beach Department of Public Health
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Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
Each City Mayor and City Manager in the County of Los Angeles
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities
League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division
California Product Stewardship Council
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force