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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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June 1, 2022

The Honorable Luz M. Rivas, Chair
Assembly Natural Resources Committee
1020 N Street, Room 164
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Rivas:

SUPPORT IF AMENDED – SENATE BILL 1046 (EGGMAN AND GONZALEZ) AS AMENDED ON MAY 17, 2022 – SOLID WASTE: PRECHECKOUT BAGS

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Senate Bill 1046 (SB 1046), as amended on May 17, 2022, provided it is **amended** to include the recommendations in this letter.

If enacted, the proposed legislation would prohibit, commencing January 1, 2025, certain stores from providing a precheckout bag to a customer unless the bag is compostable or a recycled paper bag.

The Task Force is in support of SB 1046 for addressing the pervasive negative impacts of single-use bags which are made of non-recyclable plastic materials that often contaminate compost waste streams with microplastics resulting in non-compliance with SB 1383 (Lara, 2016).

However, consumers also confuse compostable bags for plastic bags and place them in the recycling bins where they contaminate the recycling stream and may interfere with material recovery facilities' recycling operations. The Task Force recommends striking out "compostable" from the bill language and only mention paper bags as an alternative to eliminate contamination in the compost waste streams and the plastic recycling streams.

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

The Honorable Luz M. Rivas
June 1, 2022
Page 2

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.

Based on the foregoing, the Task Force **supports** SB 1046 if **amended** to include the recommendations in this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer, a member of the Task Force, at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



Sam Shammass, Vice-Chair
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

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cc: Senator (Eggman, Gonzalez)
Each Member and staff of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities – Los Angeles County Division
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Fesia A. Davenport, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Westside Cities Council of Governments
Each City Mayor and Manager in the County of Los Angeles
Each City Recycling Coordinator in the County of Los Angeles
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force