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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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June 18, 2021

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

Dear Assembly Member Rivas:

SUPPORT – SENATE BILL 244 (ARCHULETA) AS INTRODUCED ON JANUARY 21, 2021 – LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES: ILLEGAL DISPOSAL: FIRE PREVENTION

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Senate Bill 244 (SB 244), as introduced on January 21, 2021.

SB 244, if enacted, would prohibit a person from knowingly disposing of a lithium-ion battery in a container or receptacle that is intended for the collection of solid waste or recyclable materials unless the container or receptacle is designated for the collection of batteries for recycling. The bill requires the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), in consultation with the Department of Toxic Substances Control, to develop a guidance document on the proper handling and disposal of lithium-ion batteries and products that contain lithium-ion batteries. The bill also requires the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to develop a model protocol and training for identifying best practices for preventing and suppressing fires caused by lithium-ion batteries and requires solid waste enterprises to adopt a protocol with procedures for the same purpose.

The Task Force supports the proposed legislation because its goals are to reduce the number of lithium-ion batteries that are being inappropriately sent to solid waste landfills by consumers; to increase the recycling of lithium-ion batteries; and to identify best practices for the detection, safe handling, and suppression of fires that originate from discarded lithium-ion batteries and products. According to Fire Rover's most recent findings for the "2020 Reported Waste & Recycling Facility Fires Annual Report," there were 23 reported injuries and 3 deaths in the United States and Canada.

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

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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 244. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer, a member of the Task Force, at 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

EC:pg:cso

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cc: Assembly Member Arambula
Assembly Member Bauer-Kahan
Assembly Member Flora
Assembly Member Cristina Garcia
Senator Archuleta
Senator Dodd
Senator Hertzberg
Each Member and staff of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources
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 City 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