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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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August 16, 2021

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez, Chair
Assembly Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez:

SUPPORT – SENATE BILL 343 (ALLEN) AS AMENDED ON JULY 8, 2021 – ENVIRONMENTAL ADVERTISING: RECYCLING SYMBOL.

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Senate Bill 343 (SB 343), as amended July 8, 2021.

SB 343, if enacted, would declare that it is the public policy of the state that claims related to the recyclability of a plastic product be truthful and that consumers deserve accurate and useful information related to how to properly handle the end of life of a plastic product. The bill would require the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to update certain regulations to include the types and forms of plastic products and packaging for which a claim of recyclability may be made, based on specified criteria. The bill would require CalRecycle, based on the specified criteria, to develop, publish, and update a list of the material types and forms determined to be recyclable. The bill would, if a material type and form is not on the list, or is removed from the list, prohibit a person from offering for sale, selling, distributing, or importing into the state any product or packaging manufactured 90 days after the list is published or updated if the product or packaging displays a chasing arrows symbol, a chasing arrows symbol surrounding a resin identification code, or any other symbol or statement indicating the product or packaging is recyclable, or directing the consumer to recycle the product or packaging. The bill would authorize a producer, or group of producers, that seeks to have a material type and form that does not meet the specified criteria included on the list to submit a plan to CalRecycle detailing how and by what date the product type and form will meet the criteria. If CalRecycle determines the product type and form will meet the criteria if the plan is implemented, the bill would require CalRecycle to include that material type and form on the list.

This bill would apply the environmental claims recordkeeping requirement to a person who makes those representations through the use of a chasing arrows symbol and would add to the required information and documentation for the use of the term "recyclable," the use of a chasing arrows symbol, or other representation that advises consumers to recycle a consumer good, whether the consumer good meets the criteria for statewide recyclability. Violation of these provisions would be a misdemeanor.

This bill, on and after the date the CalRecycle lists the approved material types and forms of products and packaging that are recyclable, would prohibit the resin identification code from being placed inside a chasing arrows symbol, unless CalRecycle determines the rigid plastic bottle or rigid plastic container is recyclable in the state. Additionally, specifies that products or packaging are not determined to be recyclable when displaying a chasing arrows symbol or any other statement indicating the product is recyclable directly on the product with the intention to be deceptive or misleading. A product or packaging may include a statement of warning such as "DO NOT RECYCLE" which clarifies the packaging or product is not recyclable. Consumer products may display a chasing arrows symbol indicating the recyclability of the actual packaging.

By clarifying and accurately identifying what is truly recyclable, this bill would help to increase recycled materials, recycling rates, and decrease contamination rates of non-recycled materials in curbside recycling. Benefits of recycling include green job creation, diversion of solid waste from landfill into materials for circular economics, and environmental and public health safety from plastic wastes pollution.

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.

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Based on the foregoing, the Task Force **supports** SB 343. 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
Council Member, City of Rosemead

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cc: Assembly Member Friedman
Assembly Member Lorena Gonzalez
Senator Allen
Senator Archuleta
Senator Caballero
Senator Dodd
Senator Eggman
Senator Glazer
Senator Rubio
Each Member and staff of the Assembly Committee on Appropriations
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