



GAIL FARBER
CHAIRMAN

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
P.O. BOX 1460, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460
www.lacountyiswmtf.org

September 25, 2009

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of the State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

**SENATE BILL 486 (ENROLLED SEPTEMBER 10, 2009)
MEDICAL WASTE: SHARPS WASTE**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) respectfully requests that you **veto** Senate Bill 486 (SB 486), which would inadvertently undermine future efforts to hold manufacturers responsible for sharps' waste.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939, as amended), the Task Force is responsible for coordinating the development of all major solid waste planning documents prepared for the County of Los Angeles and its 88 cities in Los Angeles County with a combined population in excess of 10 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, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, the City of Los Angeles, the waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

The Task Force has been a long proponent of extended producer responsibility (EPR), a solid waste management principal that advocates for a greater emphasis on producer/manufacturer responsibility for the environmental impact of their products and the waste that is produced, and shifts end-of-life management and financial responsibilities from local governments to producers, in order to reduce public costs and drive improvements in product design that promote environmental sustainability. If enacted, SB 486 would only require that pharmaceutical manufacturers submit a plan to the California Integrated Waste Management Board, or its successor agency, that describes how the manufacturer supports, *if at all*, the safe collection and proper

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disposal of home-generated sharps waste. EPR principals are not applied to AB 486 and in the end would not ensure a producer financed and managed collection system for sharps that is truly accountable, transparent, and has performance goals. As such, SB 486 would provide manufacturers an additional tool to avoid truly being responsible for their products, and as a result may hinder future efforts to require producer responsibility for sharps waste.

Therefore for the above reasons, the Task Force **respectfully request that you veto** SB 486. Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,

Margaret Clark

Margaret Clark, Vice-Chair
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force and
Mayor, City of Rosemead

VJ/SK:as

cc: Senate President Pro Temp Darrell Steinberg
Assembly Speaker Karen Bass
Senator Dennis Hollingsworth, Minority Leader
Assembly Member Sam Blakeslee, Minority Leader
Senator Joe Simitian
Chief of Staff and Director Cynthia Bryant, Office of Planning and Research
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
Each City Mayor in Los Angeles County
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities
California Products Stewardship Council
League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division
Southern California Association of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
Each Member of the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County