



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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DONALD L. WOLFE
CHAIRMAN

June 21, 2007

The Honorable Joseph S. Simitian
State Capitol, Room 4040
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Simitian:

**SENATE BILL 966 (AMENDED APRIL 30, 2007)
PROPER DISPOSAL OF PHARMACEUTICAL DRUGS**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Senate Bill 966 (SB 966), which would require that drug retailers provide their customers with convenient locations to accept pharmaceutical drugs for proper disposal by July 1, 2008.

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 County wide 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.

Often pharmaceutical drugs end up disposed of in the toilet or thrown in the trash. Unused medications that are flushed down the toilet can damage the proper operation of sewage treatment facilities, or when placed in drains can eventually enter our

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streams, lakes, and rivers. According to a United States Geological Survey in 2002, 80 percent of streams sampled contained measurable concentrations of prescription and nonprescription drugs, steroids, and reproductive hormones. Exposure even at low levels has been shown to have negative effects on fish and aquatic species. Unlike other types of hazardous waste or medical waste, currently there is no law to regulate effectively the proper disposal of drugs by residents. SB 966, if enacted, would remediate this problem by providing a safe and environmentally sound method for the disposal of unused prescription drugs.

Therefore, the Task Force **supports** SB 966. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force 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

SK/CS:cw
P:\Sec\SB966 (2)

cc: Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez
Each Member of the Assembly Health Committee
Each Member of the Assembly Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials Committee
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation
California Integrated Waste Management Board
California Department of Public Health
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
Each City Mayor in the County of Los Angeles
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities
League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division
Southern California Association of Governments
Solid Waste Association of North America
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force