



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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GAIL FARBER, CHAIR
MARGARET CLARK, VICE CHAIR

September 14, 2011

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento CA, 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

SENATE BILL 41 (YEE) - HYPODERMIC NEEDLES AND SYRINGES

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **respectively requests your signature on Senate Bill 41 (SB 41)**. The bill would, until January 1, 2015, authorize a pharmacist, hypodermic needle and syringe exchange program, physician, and/or veterinarian to furnish 30 or fewer hypodermic needles and syringes (sharps) to a person 18 years of age or older without a prescription or permit as well as requiring the participant pharmacists and exchange programs to provide consumers with prescribed options for the proper management and disposal of sharps.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939 [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 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, 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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The Task Force recognizes the need to control the spread of potentially deadly or disabling infections, which are caused by the sharing of used sharps. At the same time, the disposal of used sharps continues to be a significant health as well as operational and financial concern to local governments and private and public operators of solid waste facilities. Injuries caused by used sharps that are improperly disposed can cause great harm and spread infection to workers managing solid waste and recyclables. Local governments continue to be burdened with the financial responsibility of managing sharps waste collected at household hazardous waste collection events or other public facilities. SB 41 would help alleviate this burden on a trial basis until January 1, 2015, by providing sharps users or caretakers of sharps user additional convenient locations to dispose of their used sharps while minimizing costs to local governments.

While ultimately the Task Force supports comprehensive legislation that would shift the burden of collection and proper management of sharps from local governments to manufacturers of sharps and pharmaceuticals administered with sharps, SB 41 is a step in the right direction. Therefore, the Task Force **respectively requests your signature on SB 41**. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147 or mikemohajer@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,



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

CM:ts

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cc: Gareth Elliott, Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
Bill Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer, County of Los Angeles
Jonathan E. Fielding, Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Leroy D. Baca, Sheriff, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force