



April 18, 2016

Extended Producer Responsibility Legislation
EPR@lacounty.gov

Re: Los Angeles County Rx and Sharps EPR Ordinance

To Whom It May Concern:

Medical Waste Services operates a full service (collection, treatment and disposal) medical waste facility in Los Angeles County. Our Management team has over four decades of experience in this field, and collectively we have planned, permitted, built and operated dozens of facilities both inside California and across the country. Our current facility located in Paramount, California has been operating continuously since 2010, and we enjoy a perfect compliance record.

We are keenly aware of the safety and environmental concerns associated with the improper disposal of both sharps and pharmaceutical waste, and we have been following the legislative developments from Alameda County and other municipalities closely. Our associated business operations focused on solid waste and material recycling face the daily hazards of "stray" sharps/needles in the waste stream, and the improper disposal of unused pharmaceutical waste contributes significantly to the ground and water pollution endangering our health and that of future generations.

Pharmaceutical waste is particularly troublesome to dispose of, as California regulations require that these materials be treated via incineration or "high heat" to ensure complete destruction and disposal. Until recently, that meant that the pharmaceutical waste generated in California was trucked thousands of miles across the country to a permitted medical waste incinerator. There are only two main incinerators open to the public for pharmaceutical waste disposal. They are located outside Houston, TX and Baltimore, MD. Both of these facilities, despite exhaust controls, emit significant atmospheric pollution. This pollution is added to the diesel exhaust pollution created from the long-haul transport of these materials across the country. The one private medical waste incinerator located outside Salt Lake City, UT has recently been the target of multiple lawsuits, regulatory violations, fines and criminal investigations. That facility has been scheduled for closure in the near future.

MWS is pleased to offer the only California-based environmental solution to this problem. Our revolutionary CoronaLux treatment process combines the proven technology of pyrolysis with a cold plasma exhaust system without the harmful emissions associated with traditional incineration methods. MWS is the only company in California with the permitted ability to treat pharmaceutical waste in California, eliminating the pollution associated with long distance transportation and treatment of these materials. California can now handle California's troublesome waste stream, without exporting the problem to neighboring states.

MWS recently hosted several members of the County Department of Public Works and Public Health, and everyone was excited about the technology, and the Los Angeles County-based solution available to address the needs of the County and its residents.

MWS would like to extend an invitation to you and your colleagues to visit our Paramount facility and learn more about this revolutionary technology, and discuss the plans we have for addressing the needs of Los Angeles County residents now, and well into the future. We believe we have developed a true “turn key” solution for residential sharps and pharmaceutical waste disposal.

We are also available to meet with staff personnel at any time to answer questions and further demonstrate this technology and the capabilities of MWS.

Sincerely:


Robert Shaw
President

