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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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July 19, 2010

The Honorable Felipe Fuentes, Chair
Assembly Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 94249-0039

Dear Assembly Member Fuentes:

**SUPPORT - SENATE BILL 1100 (AMENDED JUNE 15, 2010)
PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP: HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) has reviewed Senate Bill 1100 (SB 1100) and is pleased to advise of its position of **support**. SB 1100 would require manufacturers of household batteries to establish product stewardship plans to ensure the safe collection and proper management of household batteries in California. The Task Force has been an adamant supporter of product stewardship as a mechanism for protecting the public's health and safety and the environment at the source, thereby addressing the highest rung of the waste management hierarchy, source reduction, while in turn reducing costs for local governments to address the unintended environmental impacts of products.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 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 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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The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that, each year, Americans purchase approximately three billion dry-cell batteries to power items such as television remote controls, radios, watches, and a multitude of other products. The problem arises in that household batteries are a concentrated source of heavy metals such as lead, mercury, cadmium, and nickel. Improperly disposed batteries may have a negative impact on the environment, potentially causing serious health risks to humans and animals. As a result, effective February 8, 2006, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control classified household batteries as Universal Waste and banned them from being disposed in landfills under the California Universal Waste Rule.

Since local governments throughout California are currently held responsible for ensuring the proper collection and management of Universal Waste, this classification imposed an additional unfunded mandate on local governments to collect and manage household batteries. Los Angeles County alone spends over \$150,000 each year managing these efforts via household hazardous waste events and a partnership with County of Los Angeles Libraries where residents can dispose of household batteries. This is in addition to the costs to properly manage batteries purchased by Los Angeles County Departments.

If enacted, SB 1100 would shift the responsibility for the safe and proper disposal of household batteries back towards their manufacturers and other entities involved in the product chain by requiring manufacturers to develop and implement a product stewardship plan with the ultimate target of collecting 95 percent of the batteries sold in the previous year. This will alleviate the burden placed on local governments and taxpayers to manage household battery waste while gradually removing local governments from the end-of-life management process.

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Therefore, the Task Force would like to express its position of **support** for SB 1100 and respectfully request your concurrence. 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

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cc: Assembly Speaker, John A. Perez
Assembly Member Martin Garrick, Minority Leader
Senator Ellen Corbett
Each Member of the California Assembly Appropriations Committee
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force