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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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August 16, 2021

The Honorable Anthony J. Portantino, Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Portantino:

SUPPORT - ASSEMBLY BILL 707 (QUIRK) AS AMENDED JUNE 29, 2021 – MERCURY THERMOSTAT COLLECTION ACT OF 2021

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Assembly Bill 707 (AB 707), as amended on June 29, 2021.

If enacted, the proposed legislation, would recast the Mercury Thermostat Collection Act of 2008 and establishes it as the Mercury Thermostat Act of 2021. Among other things, the bill would require each manufacturer of mercury-added thermostats to contract with or retain a qualified third party to develop and implement a convenient, cost-effective, and efficient program for the proper collection, transportation, recycling, and disposal of out-of-service mercury-added thermostats. Beginning on March 1, 2022, manufacturers of all mercury-added thermostats are also required to annually contribute a specified amount to cover all state administrative and enforcement costs. Additionally, AB 707 would require mercury-added thermostat manufacturers to provide no less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) annually to effectively and efficiently develop education and outreach campaigns and implementation of the collection program. The bill would further make a manufacturer that fails to make a required payment, subject to a sales ban and a penalty to be assessed by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). Penalties collected by the DTSC would be deposited in the Toxic Substances Control Account which would be used for the actual and reasonable regulatory costs to implement and enforce the Act. The proposed Act is to sunset on January 1, 2030.

The current Mercury Thermostat Collection Act of 2008 provided a statutory plan of action for collecting out-of-service mercury-added thermostats before they could be mismanaged as solid waste and risk mercury contamination. This bill would establish a \$30 incentive per out-of-service mercury-added thermostat collected to encourage consumers to properly dispose of their mercury-added thermostats. The bill would also require each manufacturer, or group of manufacturers, through the qualified third party, to provide to wholesalers, collection bins for collection of out-of-service mercury-added thermostats at no cost to the wholesaler.

The Task Force is supportive of AB 707 as the bill would further require manufacturers of mercury thermostats to cover the cost for collection and management so that they are not mismanaged, and the risk of mercury contamination is reduced.

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Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939), 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.

Based on the foregoing, the Task Force **supports** AB 707. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer, a member of the Task Force, at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or 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 Member Quirk

Each Member and staff of the Senate Committee on Appropriations

California State Association of Counties

League of California Cities – Los Angeles County Division

Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Fesia A. Davenport, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer

Gateway Cities Council of Governments

San Gabriel Valley Council of Government

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Westside Cities Council of Governments

Each City Mayor and City Manager in the County of Los Angeles

Each City Recycling Coordinator in the County of Los Angeles

Each Member of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force