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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
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***** FLOOR ALERT *****

TO: California State Senators

FROM: Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

**SUPPORT – SENATE BILL 1156 (ARCHULETA) AS AMENDED ON JUNE 18, 2020 –
LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES: ILLEGAL DISPOSAL: FIRE PREVENTION**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 1156 (SB 1156), as amended on June 18, 2020.

SB 1156, if enacted, would prohibit a person from knowingly disposing of a lithium-ion battery in the garbage or recycling streams, unless the container or receptacle is designated for the collection of batteries for recycling. The bill requires the Resources Recycling and Recovery Department of California (CalRecycle), in consultation with the Department of Toxic Substances Control, to develop a guidance document on the proper handling and disposal of lithium-ion batteries and products that contain lithium-ion batteries. The bill also requires the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to develop a model protocol and training for identifying best practices for preventing and suppressing fires caused by lithium-ion batteries and requires solid waste enterprises to adopt a protocol with procedures for the same purpose.

The Task Force **supports** the proposed legislation because its goals are to reduce the number of lithium-ion batteries that are being illegally sent to solid waste landfills by consumers; to increase the recycling of lithium-ion batteries; and to identify best practices for the detection, safe handling, and suppression of fires that originate from discarded lithium-ion batteries and products. According to the California Product Stewardship Council in 2018, 83 percent of waste facilities reported a fire in the past two years, 65 percent were started by batteries, and 40 percent of those fires were started by lithium-ion batteries.

As provided by Assembly Bill 939 (1989) and Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code, the Task Force is responsible for coordinating the development of major solid waste planning documents for Los Angeles County and the 88 cities in the County with a population of over ten million. The Task Force addresses issues impacting the solid waste management system on a countywide basis.

Based on the foregoing, the **Task Force SUPPORTS SB 1156 and requests your AYE vote on the bill.** 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.

cc: Assembly Member Calderon