



GAIL FARBER, CHAIR
MARGARET CLARK, VICE-CHAIR

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
P.O. BOX 1460, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460
www.lacountyiswmf.org

June 16, 2014

TO: Each City Mayor and City Manager in Los Angeles County

URGENT REQUEST FOR LETTER TO OPPOSE ASSEMBLY BILL 2371
SOLID WASTE: HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) is writing to share our concerns regarding the potential ramifications to your Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Element established pursuant to AB 939 (Sher, 1989) mandate if Assembly Bill 2371, as amended on April 21, 2014, is enacted.

The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939), as amended, requires cities and counties to prepare, adopt, and implement an HHW Element which details a program dedicated to the collection, recycling, treatment and disposal of residential HHW. Cities in Los Angeles County and the County for the unincorporated communities have met this requirement by participating in the Countywide HHW Program (Program). The Program utilizes a combination of permanent collection centers, mobile collection events, and an extensive public education and outreach efforts. The County provides Program data and other information on an annual basis to the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) and the Department of Toxic Substances Control on behalf of the 88 cities and the unincorporated County areas. Through economies of scale, the Program provides a cost-effective means to serve all jurisdictions in Los Angeles County.

AB 2371 would impact all jurisdictions within Los Angeles County. Among other things, it would require each jurisdiction not later than January 1, 2016, to “review” its HHW program and provide the results of the evaluation in its first report due to CalRecycle on or after January 1, 2016. The “review” process by each jurisdiction must at least:

- Analyze the extent to which its HHW program is “convenient” to its residents;
- Identify barriers to the “convenient” recycling and disposal of HHW; and
- Identify feasible methods to overcome those barriers and make it “more convenient” for the public to recycle and dispose of HHW in a safe and legal manner. The term “more convenient” is defined as measure(s) to improve the

Each City Mayor and Manager

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opportunity for the jurisdiction's residential customers to properly recycle or dispose of their HHW, including, but not limited to, door-to-door or curbside collection services (emphasis added).

The bill would further require Jurisdictions to include new methods resulting from the "review" process as part of their annual report to CalRecycle as well detailed collection data, thus reverting back to the "bean counting" of years past. Moreover, as a result of the evaluation and reported data, CalRecycle would be authorized to require each jurisdiction to develop a new HHW Element which would be costly and time consuming. These requirements would needlessly place a significant financial burden on jurisdictions.

For your convenience, we have enclosed a copy of a letter the Task Force sent to the Senate Environmental Quality Committee dated June 13, 2014. Moreover, a sample letter that your city can use is also enclosed. ***It is imperative that jurisdictions throughout Los Angeles County express their opposition to this bill at their earliest.***

As provided by AB 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 the County of Los Angeles and the 88 cities in Los Angeles County, with a combined population of over 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, the waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

Should you have any questions regarding the subject matter, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer 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
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Rosemead

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cc: Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
San Fernando Valley Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
Westside Cities Council of Governments
County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force

June XX, 2014

The Honorable Jerry Hill, Chair
Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol, Room 2205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Hill:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 2371 (AMENDED APRIL 21, 2014) – OPPOSE
SOLID WASTE: HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE**

The City of _____ **opposes** Assembly Bill 2371 (AB 2371). This Bill would, among other things, require jurisdictions to conduct an expensive and detailed evaluation of their Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Programs and provide the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) with information resulting from the evaluation.

As an active participant in the Los Angeles County Countywide HHW Program (Program), our City and its residents benefit from being part of one of the largest and most successful HHW programs in the nation. The Program serves all 88 cities and unincorporated County communities through a combination of permanent collection centers and mobile collection events. The Program was recently evaluated and found to be the most effective and convenient method for HHW collection.

AB 2371 would require our City to annually reevaluate the Program and provide CalRecycle with resulting information. Our City would also be required to provide detailed collection information on an annual basis reverting back to the ineffective and resource intensive “bean counting” of yesteryear. Moreover, the bill would grant CalRecycle the authority to require our City to revise its HHW Element which will be time consuming and costly at a time when our City does not have resources to spare.

For these reasons, the City of _____ **opposes** AB 2371. Should you have any questions, please contact _____.

Sincerely,

cc: Assembly Member Kevin Mullin
Each Member of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee and the Committee Consultant
Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force



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MARGARET CLARK, VICE - CHAIR

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June 13, 2014

The Honorable Jerry Hill, Chair
Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol, Room 2205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Hill,

**ASSEMBLY BILL 2371 (AMENDED APRIL 21, 2014) – OPPOSE
SOLID WASTE: HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE**

The Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **opposes** Assembly Bill 2371 (AB 2371) which would, among other things, require local jurisdictions to review and update their Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program in order to increase “convenience” to residents.

As proposed by AB 2371, the jurisdiction “review” process, at least must include the following:

1. Analyze the extent to which its household hazardous waste program is convenient to the public.
2. Identify barriers to the convenient recycling and disposal of household hazardous waste.
3. Identify feasible methods to overcome those barriers and make it “**more convenient,**” as described below, for the public to recycle and dispose of household hazardous waste in a safe and legal manner (emphasis added).

*The proposed legislation defines the term “**more convenient**” to mean a measure to improve the opportunity for residential customers to properly recycle or dispose of household hazardous waste, including, but not limited to, increased availability or ease of access to household hazardous waste collection centers or collection events, **the availability of door-to-door or curbside collection services, and other measures that will demonstrably increase the amount of household hazardous waste properly managed, as determined by jurisdictions or the Department of Resources Recycling and Recover (Cal Recycle), (emphasis added).***

Not later than January 1, 2016, the proposed legislation requires each city and each county submit the results of its “review” process, as defined above, to CalRecycle for approval and further action as may be stipulated by CalRecycle.

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 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, the waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939), as amended, requires cities and counties to prepare, adopt, and implement an HHW Element which details a program dedicated to the collection, recycling, treatment and disposal of residential HHW. Los Angeles County’s Program which is operated on a Countywide basis hosts over sixty annual HHW mobile collection events throughout the County and runs nine permanent collection centers. The program includes a vigorous outreach component and provides elderly and disabled residents an opportunity to have their HHW picked up from their residence. In 2009, the Program piloted a used-oil curbside program, and despite numerous educational campaigns, only one resident utilized the service over three years. The Program was recently evaluated and it was confirmed that a mixed-model which included mobile and permanent collection centers as well as door-to-door service for the elderly and disabled is most convenient and cost-effective.

As stated above, AB 2371 would require jurisdictions to review their HHW programs and provide CalRecycle with results of the evaluation. Moreover, jurisdictions would also be required to include new methods resulting from the review as part of their annual report to CalRecycle. These requirements would needlessly place a burden on jurisdictions which already evaluate their programs for increased effectiveness in addition to providing data on an annual basis to CalRecycle and the Department of Toxic Substances Control. Moreover, each year several HHW information exchanges are held throughout the state where jurisdictions share their respective experiences and strategies related to managing successful HHW programs. **CalRecycle has been an active participant at these events and is thus already well positioned to understand the needs and overall approaches characteristic of such programs** (emphasis added).

The Task Force is concerned with the proposed definition of the term “more convenient” since it fails to consider factors such as costs, funding mechanism, new

The Honorable Jerry Hill

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products that are continuously being introduced in the market, etc. The Task Force believes that the management of HHW should be a shared responsibility as local jurisdictions cannot fully address the needed capacity for proper disposal of HHW due to **continuous expansion of new products** which are manufactured with hazardous substances. The Task Force has long been a strong proponent of product stewardship/extended producer responsibility (EPR) which encourages manufacturers to take some responsibility for the management of their products at the end of their useful life. This responsibility incentivizes manufacturers to redesign their products in order to minimize difficult to manage waste. EPR redirects expensive waste management costs back on product manufacturers and users. AB 2371 would potentially be a step backwards, increasing the burden on local governments while avoiding real solutions of sharing the responsibility with product manufacturers (emphasis added).

Based on the foregoing, the Task Force is **opposed** to AB 2371. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



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

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cc: Assembly Member Kevin Mullin
Each Member of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee & Committee Consultant
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation
California Product Stewardship Council
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities
Each member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Gateway 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 Los Angeles County
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force