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LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
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June 17, 2019

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

Dear Senator Portantino:

**SUPPORT AND AMEND – ASSEMBLY BILL 619 (CHIU) AS AMENDED ON MARCH 20, 2019 – RETAIL FOOD: REUSABLE CONTAINERS: MULTIUSE UTENSILS**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Assembly Bill 619 (AB 619), as amended on March 20, 2019, and **suggests amending it** as indicated in this letter. If enacted, the proposed legislation, among other things, would end the requirement that temporary food facilities at community events provide single-use food-ware by allowing - but not mandating – vendors at events to serve food and beverages in washable cups, dishes, and utensils. This bill would also make clear for restaurants that they may serve food and beverages in consumer-provided reusable containers and clarify food facility handling procedures for consumer-owned containers which ought to make it easier for food establishments to serve food in such containers.

This simple single-use waste management fix would give food facility operators the flexibility to respond to consumer preferences, save money, create marketing opportunities for businesses that want to “go green” at popular community events and market development for reusable food-ware, while source reducing single-use waste to reduce waste generation.

In summary, if enacted, the proposed legislation would:

- Provide that clean consumer-owned containers provided or returned to the food facility for filling may be filled by either the employee or the owner of the container and would

require the food facility to isolate the consumer-owned containers from the serving surface or sanitize the serving surface after each filling.

- Require the consumer-owned containers to be designed and constructed for reuse, as specified.
- Require the food facility to prepare, maintain, and adhere to written procedures to prevent cross-contamination, and to make the written procedures available to the enforcement agency.
- Authorize a local enforcement agency to allow a temporary food facility to use multiuse utensils that are cleaned, rinsed, and sanitized at either the temporary food facility or an approved food facility.

The Task Force recommends amending AB 619 to further support the intentions of this bill by including the following:

1. Require the State Department of Public Health in concert with the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery to develop a statewide reusable food-ware educational program/campaign and encourage businesses to utilize the state's outreach materials.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 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.

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Based on the foregoing, the Task Force **supports** and **suggests amending** AB 619, as indicated in this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer, a member of the Task Force, at [MikeMohajer@yahoo.com](mailto: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, City of Rosemead

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cc: Assembly Member Chiu  
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  
Sachi A. Hamai, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer  
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 Solid Waste Management Committee/  
Integrated Waste Management Task Force