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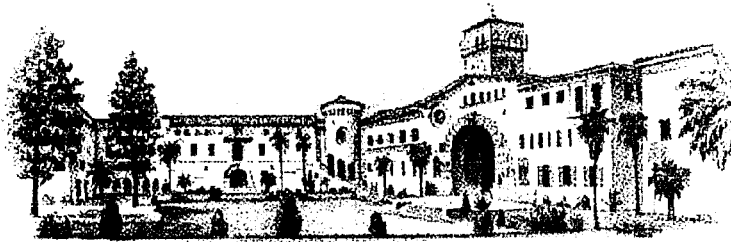
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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

April 8, 2013

Assemblymember Luis A. Alejo
Chair, Assembly Environmental Safety &
Toxic Materials Committee
1020 N Street, Room 171
Sacramento, California 95814

Fax: (916) 319-3950

Re: AB 403 (Stone/Eggman) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Alejo,

The County of Santa Barbara supports AB 403 (Stone/Eggman), which will require producers of medical sharps (e.g. needles, lancets, etc.) to create, finance, and manage a collection system for California consumers to safely and conveniently dispose of home-generated used sharps.

Used sharps can carry infectious and deadly diseases. There are many cases in recent years of solid waste workers and the general public coming into contact with illegally disposed sharps. Being punctured by a used sharp is a painful and stressful experience for the victim and his/her family, involving many medical visits and blood tests to determine if a long-term or life-threatening disease has been transmitted from the puncture wound. It is also costly for employers and the insurers.

Local government, by default, has carried the financial burden of managing home-generated sharps collection programs. These programs are broadly financed by taxpayers, even though many of these taxpayers or ratepayers never directly benefit from use of the sharps. The County of Santa Barbara has operated a home-generated sharps collection program for over a decade. Last year the program collected almost 8,000 pounds of used sharps. Distribution of the sharps collection containers alone costs the County approximately \$13,000 annually. Additionally, the County must cover disposal fees and staff costs to manage the program.

We strongly believe that AB 403 is the right solution to this public health problem because it creates a privately managed and financed system to allow consumers to safely and conveniently dispose of used home-generated sharps. It gives the producers freedom to design and create their own collection system and build off of existing programs, while providing the appropriate state oversight and enforcement by CalRecycle. AB 403 also outlines requirements for financing, public outreach, and clear performance goals tied to specific dates.

This collection system will ultimately lead to less illegal disposal of used sharps, a decrease in solid waste worker injuries, and fewer injuries to the general public. For these reasons, the County of Santa Barbara strongly supports AB 403.

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If you have any questions about our position, please contact Leslie Robinson with our Public Works Department at (805) 882-3615 or lrobin@cosbpw.net.

Sincerely,



Salud Carbajal,
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Das Williams
The Honorable Katcho Achadjian
Monica Miller, Legislative Advocate
Cliff Berg, Legislative Advocate
Members of the Board of Supervisors

Members, Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials:

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Assemblymember Susan Eggman, fax: (916) 319-2113

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State Senator Tony Strickland, fax: (805) 965-0701

Heidi Sanborn, California Product Stewardship Council, email: heidi@calpsc.org