

MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Kirk Uhler, Supervisor District 4
Mike Boyle, Assistant County Executive Officer

DATE: July 27, 2010

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: RESOLUTION – Present a Resolution supporting Product Stewardship and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation designed to shift the financial disposal burden of household hazardous waste, universal waste and other problematic products from cities and counties to manufacturers and producers of the products.

ACTION REQUESTED

Present a Resolution supporting Product Stewardship and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation designed to shift the financial disposal burden of household hazardous waste, universal waste and other problematic products from cities and counties to manufacturers and producers of the products.

BACKGROUND

On February 8, 2006 California's Universal Waste Rule (CCR, Title 22, Division 4.5, Chapter 23) that banned landfill disposal of certain products deemed hazardous became effective. The state policies mandating the rules for universal waste disposal make local governments responsible for achieving waste diversion goals and enforcing product disposal bands. However, these mandates go unfunded. The costs to manage universal waste and problematic products are currently borne by ratepayers and those costs are increasing substantially due to the mandates and the increasing list of banned items.

In an attempt to address this increasing problem, the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) was organized. The CPSC is a federally-recognized non-profit corporation supported by local governments and businesses whose purpose is to support product stewardship. In particular, the CPSC's mission is to shift the focus of waste management and diversion from a government-funded and ratepayer-financed model to one that relies more on producer responsibility. The Product Stewardship and Extended Producer Responsibility policy has proven effective as a means to shift financial responsibility for management of waste products onto producers. The Board of Supervisors is being asked to support Product Stewardship and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and urge the California Legislature to enact legislation which will give producers the incentive to design products to make them less toxic and easier to reuse and recycle.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

In the matter of a Resolution in support of Product Stewardship and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation designed to shift the financial disposal burden of household hazardous waste, universal waste and other problematic products from cities and counties to manufacturers and producers of the products.

WHEREAS, on February 8, 2006 California's Universal Waste Rule (CCR, Title 22, Division 4.5, chapter 23) became effective; and

WHEREAS, the Universal Waste Rule banned landfill disposal of certain products that are deemed hazardous, including household batteries, fluorescent bulbs and tubes, thermostats and other items that contain mercury. In addition, electronic devices such as televisions, cell phones, microwave ovens, printers and computers have been banned from landfills and products referred to as, "Sharps" such as hypodermic needles, have also been banned due to the potential danger to the public and sanitation workers when improperly disposed; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that approximately 75% of today's waste stream comes from these types of products and the list is expected to grow; and

WHEREAS, state policies currently make local governments responsible for achieving waste diversion goals and enforcing product disposal bans, both of which are unfunded mandates. However, local governments do not have the resources to adequately address the rising volume of discarded products. These costs are currently paid by taxpayers and ratepayers and are expected to increase substantially in the short term unless policy changes are made; and

WHEREAS, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) has proven to be an effective policy solution in which producers assume financial responsibility for management of waste products.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer, on behalf of the citizens of Placer County, supports Product Stewardship and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer, on behalf of the citizens of Placer County, urges the California Legislature to enact framework EPR legislation which will give producers the incentive to design products to make them less toxic and easier to reuse and recycle.

Kirk Uhler, Supervisor, District 4
Chairman 2010

Rocky Rockholm
Supervisor, District 1

Robert M. Weygandt
Supervisor, District 2

Jim Holmes
Supervisor, District 3

Jennifer Montgomery
Supervisor, District 5