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APR 13 2009

CITY OF LARKSPUR

MARIN COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

RESOLUTION NO. 23/09

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APR 14 2009

DPW
Waste Management

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LARKSPUR
SUPPORTING STATEWIDE, LOCAL AND REGIONAL
EFFORTS TO HOLD PRODUCERS RESPONSIBLE FOR PRODUCT WASTE
STARTING WITH TOXIC PRODUCTS DEFINED AS UNIVERSAL WASTE**

WHEREAS, on February 8, 2006, a State law took effect in California that makes it illegal to dispose of items defined as "universal waste," in household garbage. Universal waste includes household batteries, fluorescent bulbs or tubes, thermostats, other items that contain mercury, as well as electronic devices including VCRs, microwaves, cellular phones, cordless phones, printers, and radios; and

WHEREAS, collecting and disposing of these products, and implementing a public awareness campaign to prevent these banned items from going into the trash will cost the citizens of Marin ever increasing amount of money; and

WHEREAS, when additional products are declared "hazardous" by the State, the burden to manage these items will fall to local jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, there are significant environmental and human health impacts associated with household products that contain toxic ingredients, including mercury, lead, cadmium and other toxic chemicals that when disposed of improperly can contaminate water supplies; and

WHEREAS, by covering the costs of collection and disposal of garbage, local governments are subsidizing the production of waste because manufacturers know that whatever they produce the local governments will foot the bill for recycling or disposal; and

WHEREAS, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is an environmental policy approach in which producers assume responsibility - financial and/or physical - for the management of post-consumer products, so that those who produce and use products bear the costs of recycling and proper disposal; and

WHEREAS, when brand owners are responsible for ensuring their products are recycled responsibly, and when health and environmental costs are included in the product price, there is a strong incentive to design and purchase goods that are more durable, easier to recycle, and less toxic; and

WHEREAS, Extended Producer Responsibility is a policy approach in which producers assume responsibility for management of waste products and which has been shown to be effective; and

WHEREAS, it is timely to develop and support Extended Producer Responsibility legislation to address the universal waste sector of the waste stream in response to the State ban on universal waste from household disposal;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Larkspur urges State legislators to pursue statewide Extended Producer Responsibility legislation targeted at universal waste that will give incentives for the redesign of products to make them less toxic, and shift the cost for recycling and proper disposal of products from local government to the producer and distributor of the product; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Larkspur develop producer responsibility policies such as leasing products rather than purchasing them, and requiring the manufacturers of products to offer less toxic alternatives, and to take responsibility for collecting and recycling their products at the end of their useful life; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Larkspur will continue to support Extended Producer Responsibility initiatives and statewide legislation beyond universal waste to cover areas including other hazardous products, bulky packaging, and items like plastics and multi-material products that are difficult to recycle.

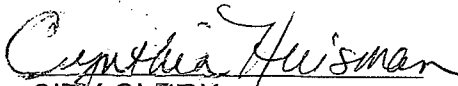
IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the City Council of the City of Larkspur duly introduced and regularly adopted the foregoing resolution at a regular meeting held on the 1st day of April, 2009, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Arlas, Chu, Hartzell, Hillmer, Lundstrom

NOES: None


ABSENT: None

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK


MAYOR

The within instrument is a true and correct copy of the original on file.


City Clerk, City of Larkspur