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No. 09-506-1
**RESOLUTION OF THE
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
GOVERNMENTS
SUPPORTING THE EXTENDED PRODUCER
RESPONSIBILITY (EPR) FRAMEWORK
APPROACH**

WHEREAS, manufactured goods and packaging constitute approximately 75% of the waste materials managed by government jurisdictions, according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency;

WHEREAS, consumer products and packaging may contain toxins such as heavy metals, certain plastics, or harmful substances that pose a threat to human health and the environment;

WHEREAS, current federal and state policies often make local government responsible for waste diversion, enforcing product disposal bans, hazardous waste collection, or other costly waste management programs, without providing funding;

WHEREAS, the cost of collecting and properly recycling or disposing of hazardous products exceeds \$100 million annually;

WHEREAS, local governments do not have the resources to adequately address the rising volume of discarded products;

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

WHEREAS, when producers are responsible for ensuring their products are reused, recycled or otherwise managed responsibly, and when health and environmental costs are included in the product price, there is an incentive to design products that are more durable, less toxic, and easier to repair and recycle;

WHEREAS, an EPR Framework Approach is a comprehensive environmental policy that addresses producer responsibility by using a set of criteria to evaluate products, along with established processes, plans, and certifications to provide a consistent approach for a wide scope of products;

WHEREAS, this comprehensive Framework Approach is more efficient than trying to address individual products on a product-by-product basis, and it encourages environmentally preferable product design and management to protect human health and the environment in a more effective way;

WHEREAS, producer responsibility removes the financial burden of product waste management from local governments, ratepayers and taxpayers and makes responsible management and recycling of products at the end-of-life a cost of doing business;

WHEREAS, policies to promote government purchase of environmentally preferable products – a market driven approach – are also an important principle of an EPR approach;

WHEREAS, passage of legislation for an EPR Framework Approach, which creates producer-lead reduction, reuse and recycling programs for their products, will help protect human health and the environment without relying solely on government funding;

WHEREAS, EPR framework legislation establishes transparent and fair principles and procedures for applying EPR to categories of products for which improved design and management infrastructure is in the public interest;

WHEREAS, the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) is an organization of California local governments working to speak with one voice in promoting transparent and fair EPR systems in California;

WHEREAS, SCAG seeks to become a member of CPSC;

WHEREAS, in January 2008, the California Integrated Waste Management Board adopted a Framework for an EPR System in California;

WHEREAS, in July 2008, the National Association of Counties adopted a resolution in support of a framework approach to EPR;

WHEREAS, in the 2008 Regional Comprehensive Plan, SCAG promoted the voluntary adoption of Zero Waste Planning Principals, that emphasizes the need to incentivize manufacturers to reduce the toxics in their products and design them to be reusable and recyclable; and

WHEREAS, Regional Council policy adopted November 5, 1998, states that SCAG will take a leadership role not only in recycling its waste products but also in the purchase of reusable and recycled products for use in the delivery of SCAG's services; and

WHEREAS, SCAG will review and may incorporate EPR policies into its product procurement practices to reduce costs and protect the environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) , that SCAG supports collaboration and policy changes that shift responsibility for financing and managing products at the end-of-life away from local governments to the producers of products;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

1) SCAG supports an EPR Framework Approach which is a comprehensive environmental policy that addresses producer responsibility by using a set of criteria to evaluate products, along with established processes, plans, and certifications to provide a consistent approach for a wide scope of products;

- 2) SCAG supports producer financed and managed product take-back, in collaboration with retailers, to local government operated programs;
- 3) SCAG encourages all manufacturers to share in the responsibility for eliminating waste through minimizing excess packaging, designing products for durability, reusability and the ability to be recycled; using recycled materials in the manufacture of new products; and providing financial support for collection, processing, recycling, or disposal of used materials;
- 4) SCAG will review its procurement policies and consider development of producer responsibility policies such as leasing products rather than purchasing them and requiring producers to offer less toxic alternatives and to take responsibility for collecting and recycling their products at the end of their useful life; and
- 5) SCAG will join the California Product Stewardship Council with no financial commitment at this time, and the SCAG Executive Director or his designee is authorized to sign the California Product Stewardship Council Pledge of Support.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the unanimous vote of the Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments at a regular meeting this 5th day of February 2009.



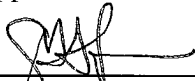
Richard Dixon
President

Attested by:



Hasan Ikhata
Executive Director

Approved as to form:



Joana Africa
Acting Chief Counsel



PLEDGE OF SUPPORT

The California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) is a coalition of local government, their associations and organizations related to solid waste, recycling, resource conservation, environmental protection, water quality, and other cross-media issues (Associates). Together with non-government organizations (NGOs) individuals, and businesses (Partners) across California they form a network supporting product stewardship and extended producer responsibility (EPR). CPSC is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit public benefit California corporation that exists by means of your monetary and in-kind contributions in addition to private and public grant funding.

CPSC MISSION: To shift California's product waste management system from one focused on government funded and ratepayer financed waste diversion to one that relies on producer responsibility in order to reduce public costs and drive improvements in product design that promote environmental sustainability.

CPSC FUNCTIONS:

1. Build relationships among local government and other stakeholders to increase capacity and knowledge in order to bring about producer financed and managed systems for life cycle and end of life management of their products.
2. Develop practical local and statewide EPR policy and educational tools such as model ordinances, legislation, newsletters, articles, policy briefings, PowerPoint presentations, etc.

The undersigned supports the mission and functions of the California Product Stewardship Council and will advocate in support of product stewardship and EPR.

Affiliation (check one): Associate - Local Government (City, County, Association)
 Partner - Individual, Business, NGO, Organization

R. T. Dixon 2/5/09
Signature Date

R.T. Dixon PRESIDENT
Name (print) Title

SCAG
Organization/Jurisdiction (city, county, regional agency) Department/Agency

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Check here if you are including or will provide a financial contribution to CPSC
Please sign, include contribution, and mail to CPSC, P.O. Box 216381, Sacramento, CA 95821

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