

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting on February 2, 2010

RESOLUTION NO. 10-08

RESOLUTION OF THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SUPPORTING EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

WHEREAS, the Humboldt Waste Management Authority (HWMA) collected approximately 314,000 pounds of Universal and Household Waste (HHW) in Fiscal Year 2008-09 at an approximate cost of \$460,000; and

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, and electronic devices such as, televisions, cell phones, microwave ovens, printers, and computers; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the list of waste products determined to be hazardous or problematic will continue to grow and will therefore be banned from landfills as demonstrated by the 2007 ban of treated wood and the 2008 Sharps ban; 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; and

WHEREAS, the costs to manage Universal Waste and problematic products are currently borne by taxpayers and rate payers and, because of the bans these costs are increasing substantially and will continue to do so unless policy changes are made; and

WHEREAS, data from HWMA annual reports show that less than ten percent of the household hazardous waste and Universal waste generated is being collected; and

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

WHEREAS, the County of Humboldt supports statewide efforts to hold producers responsible for the Universal Waste products and other product waste they create; and

WHEREAS, there are significant environmental and human health impacts associated with improper management of Universal Waste, sharps, pharmaceuticals, and other products; and

WHEREAS, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a policy approach in which producers have cradle-to-cradle responsibility for the products they create and sell and are responsible for designing and managing effective end-of-life systems for those products; and

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WHEREAS, EPR encourages reuse and recycling and also encourages producers to consider the health and environmental costs associated with the products they create and to include those costs in the product price, thereby creating an incentive to design products that are more durable, easier to repair and recycle, and are less toxic; and

WHEREAS, EPR framework legislation is a holistic approach that establishes transparent and fair principles and procedures for applying EPR to categories of products and ensures a level playing field for all producers of those products; and

WHEREAS, the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) is a non-profit organization of California local governments working to speak with one voice in advocating for transparent and fair EPR systems in California; and

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

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

WHEREAS, in June 2008 the California League of Cities adopted a policy statement in support of a framework approach to EPR;

WHEREAS, in November 2009, the National League of Cities adopted a resolution in support of a framework approach to EPR;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Humboldt urges the California Legislature to continue taking timely action to implement the Framework for an EPR System adopted by the California Integrated Waste Management Board in 2008 to manage problematic products, and to urge the Department of Toxic Substances Control to implement the Green Chemistry initiative to manage Universal Waste and other toxic products; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of Humboldt 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; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County of Humboldt 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.

