

RESOLUTION NO. 07-02
MARIN COUNTY HAZARDOUS AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT JOINT
POWERS AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION 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 that made it illegal to dispose of items defined as “universal waste,” in the 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 Marin County ever increasing amounts of money; and

WHEREAS, When additional products are declared as 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, 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 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, It is timely to develop and support extended producer responsibility legislation to address the universal waste sector of the waste stream first in response to the state ban on universal waste from household disposal; and

WHEREAS, on April 26, 2006 the Marin County Hazardous and Solid Waste Management Joint Powers Authority Executive Committee approved a motion to add to staff's work plan, participation in a regional group to lobby the State for product take back and EPR legislation; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Marin County Hazardous and Solid Waste Management Joint Powers Authority urges representatives in Sacramento 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 the local government to the producer and distributor of the product; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Joint Powers Authority and its member agencies 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 Marin County Hazardous and Solid Waste Management Joint Powers Authority 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.

AYES: Nordhoff, Bonander, Broad, Keen, Rodericks, Montgomery, Hymel,
Stutsman, Whitson

NOES: None

ABSENT: Kelly, Bracken



Debbie Stutsman, Chair

Date: 11-14-06

ATTEST:

