

RESOLUTION NO. 63-2007

On the motion of Supervisor Pirie
duly seconded by Supervisor Stone
the following resolution is adopted:

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS TO SUPPORT ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE AND LOCAL
POLICY ON EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

WHEREAS, on February 8, 2006, a state law took effect that makes it illegal to throw in the garbage items defined as “universal waste,” which 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, assuming a fifty percent recovery rate, collecting and disposing of these products now banned from the trash will cost Santa Cruz County local governments an estimated additional \$1.5 million each year; 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, manufactured goods and packaging constitute about seventy-five percent of the materials managed by, or for, the County of Santa Cruz and sent to landfill, costing County of Santa Cruz residents and businesses about \$8.8 million a year for collection, diversion and disposal; 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 government 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;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors urges our representatives in Sacramento to pursue statewide extended producer responsibility legislation 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 County of Santa Cruz develop producer responsibility policies requiring the manufacturers of products sold to County departments 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 County of Santa Cruz will continue to support extended producer responsibility initiatives, including the California Product Stewardship Council, 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.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 27th day of February, 2007, by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS Pirie, Coonerty, Campos, Stone and Beautz

NOES: SUPERVISORS None

ABSENT: SUPERVISORS None

JANET K. BEAUTZ
Chairperson of said Board

ATTEST: GAIL T. BORKOWSKI
Clerk of said Board

Approved as to form:

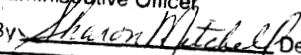

Office of County Counsel

DDG:mh

- Distribution: County Counsel
- Public Works
- General Services
- Assembly Member John Laird
- Assembly Member Anna Caballero
- Senator Maldonado
- Senator Simitian
- Margo Reid, Chair, California Integrated Waste Management Board
- Rubia Packard, California Integrated Waste Management Board
- Californians Against Waste

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ } SS
I, SUSAN A. MAURIELLO, County Administrative Officer and ex-officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution passed and adopted by and entered in the minutes of the said board. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the said Board on Feb 27 2007.

SUSAN A. MAURIELLO, County Administrative Officer
By:  Deputy