



CITY OF ELK GROVE CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

AGENDA TITLE: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY TO MANAGE DISPOSAL COSTS OF UNIVERSAL WASTE (BATTERIES AND LAMPS)

MEETING DATE: September 26, 2007

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RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends that the City Council approve a resolution supporting extended producer responsibility to manage the costs of disposal of universal waste.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The City of Elk Grove participates in the California Integrated Waste Management Board's (CIWMB) Household Hazard Waste (HHW) grant program with other local governments in Sacramento County (with the County as the lead coordinator).

The primary goals of the participating regional governments (Sacramento County, Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Galt, Isleton, Rancho Cordova and City of Sacramento) are to:

1. Encourage regional collaboration;

2. Develop a strategy for coordinated battery and mercury-containing lamp collection (batteries and lamps);
3. Design a cost-effective method to share the burden of collecting and processing batteries and lamps between local governments and the producers of those products and;
4. Document the coordinated strategy developed from the regional meetings.

Representatives of the local governments held a number of meetings and have completed the final activities report, which was submitted to the CIWMB. One element of the study was to estimate the amount of universal waste (u-waste) material generated in Sacramento County.

For Fiscal Year 05-06, the estimated amount of u-waste materials **generated** in Sacramento County was:

- 443,216 pounds of fluorescent lamps
- 2,440,713 pounds of single use batteries

For Fiscal Year 05-06, the estimated amount of u-waste materials **collected or otherwise diverted for recycling or safe disposal** in Sacramento County was:

- 14,564 pounds of fluorescent lamps
- 64,576 pounds of single use batteries

A total of 20,512 residents visited the two permanent HHW facilities in Fiscal Year 06-07, and a total of 5,421 households were served by the City of Folsom's HHW curbside collection program. The City of Elk Grove had a number of collection and drop-off sites for universal waste, but there was a lack of data (drop off volume is not recorded by resident) to determine how many residents actually dropped off material. As of 2006, it is estimated that five percent (5%) of households in Sacramento County are served by permanent HHW facilities.

It is estimated that for Fiscal Year 06-07, the countywide u-waste program costs for collection of these materials was \$100,855, which was spent only on universal waste labor and recycling costs. If 100% of residential-generated universal were being properly discarded, then the cost would

reach \$3,361,820 annually. That leaves a shortfall of \$3,260,965 annually in Sacramento County to properly handle u-waste.

The representatives have identified three recommendations:

- The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) must work proactively to develop cost-effective u-waste management alternatives and reduce the permitting burden for facilities and businesses who want to responsibly take on the management burden. The DTSC must approve and provide the appropriate equipment to adequately address the problem.
- The DTSC needs to take the lead on promoting legislation to implement a producer responsibility take-back requirement. To date, the DTSC has taken the position of enforcing regulations, but has done little to relieve the financial burden on local jurisdictions to implement the programs necessary to address the issue.
- Absent a producer responsibility take-back requirement, the DTSC should develop funding sources that go directly to local jurisdictions based on a proportional share of material collected by the jurisdiction.

In summary, there is no feasible way to increase battery and lamp recycling without a sustainable funding source, which has not yet been identified. Support for extended producer responsibility policies will help correct this problem.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no impact to the General Fund from this action.

Elk Grove residents saw a rate adjustment in their monthly solid waste fee effective July 1, 2007, to fund increased solid waste costs. One reason for the increase of the franchise fee from six percent (6%) to ten percent (10%) was to fund disposal of u-waste. Currently, the proper disposal of u-waste is an unfunded state mandate placed on cities and counties. Support for extended producer responsibility will shift the cost burden for management of u-waste from local governments to the producer.