

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-124

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE SUPPORTING EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

- WHEREAS,** nearly 200,000 tons of discarded materials and products are currently sent to landfills from our community on annual basis at a minimum cost of \$41.39 per ton; and
- WHEREAS,** on February 8, 2006 California's Universal Waste Rule (CCR, Title 22, Division 4.5, Chapter 23) became effective, which bans landfill disposal of certain products that are deemed hazardous, including household batteries, fluorescent bulbs and tubes, thermostats and other items that contain mercury, as well as electronics devices such as cell phones, radios, microwave ovens, and video cassette recorders; and
- WHEREAS,** it is anticipated that the list of Universal and other waste products determined to be hazardous and therefore banned from landfills will continue to grow as demonstrated by the ban of treated wood effective January 2007 and sharps in September 2008; 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,** Universal Waste management costs are currently paid by taxpayers and rate payers and are expected to increase substantially in the short term unless policy changes are made; and
- WHEREAS,** local government has no input on the design of the products, make no profit from the products and do not have resources to adequately address the rising volume of discarded products; and
- WHEREAS,** costs paid by local governments to manage products are in effect subsidies to the producers of hazardous products and products designed for disposal; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Torrance supports statewide efforts to hold producers responsible for Universal Waste products and other product waste management costs; and
- WHEREAS,** there is significant environmental and human health impacts associated with improper management of Universal Waste products; and
- 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; and
- WHEREAS,** when producers are responsible for ensuring their products are reused or recycled responsibly, and when health and environmental costs are included in the product price, there is an incentive to design products that are more durable, easier to repair and recycle and less toxic; and
- WHEREAS,** EPR framework legislation establishes transparent and fair principals and procedures for applying ERP to categories of products for which improved design and management infrastructure is in the public interest; and

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; and

WHEREAS, the City of Torrance wishes to incorporate EPR policies into the City's product procurement practices to reduce costs and protect the environment; and

WHEREAS, The California Integrated Waste Management Board has adopted Strategic Directives to begin developing statewide EPR programs; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Torrance City Council urges the California Integrated Waste Management Board to continue taking timely action to implement the Strategic Directive #5 on Producer Responsibility to manage Universal and other wastes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Torrance urges the California Legislature to enact framework legislation that shifts the Universal and other waste management costs from local governments to the producers of the product, and which will give producers the incentive to redesign products to make them less toxic and easier to reuse and recycle; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Public Works Director be authorized to send letter to the League of California Cities, the California State Association of Counties, and the California Integrated Waste Management Board, and the State Legislature and to use other advocacy methods to urge support for EPR framework legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Public Works Director be authorized to sign the California Product Stewardship (CPSC) Pledge of Support and participate by contributing \$1500.00 annually to CPSC to educate and advocate for EPR policies and programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Torrance 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 manufacturing of new products; and providing financial support for collection, processing recycling, or disposal of used materials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Torrance and its member agencies develop producer responsibility policies such as requiring producers to offer less toxic alternatives and to take responsibility for collecting and recycling their products at the end of their useful life.

Introduced, approved and adopted this 9th day of December 2008.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JOHN FELLOWS III, City Attorney

by /s/ Ron Pohl
Ronald T. Pohl, Assistant City Attorney

 /s/ Frank Scotto
Mayor Frank Scotto
ATTEST:

 /s/ Sue Herbers
Sue Herbers, City Clerk

