

Wednesday June 17, 2009

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**OPINION**

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## Calif. project would reduce hazardous waste from paint

June 17 -- San Joaquin County, Calif., is working with state waste officials and the California Product Stewardship Council on developing a statewide program for reducing the amount of paint disposed of as hazardous waste.

The California Integrated Waste Management Board has given the county a \$400,000 grant to teach consumers how to avoid buying too much paint and how to properly store leftovers, and to provide reuse and recycling options. For paint that cannot be reduced or reused, the California Paint Stewardship Program will encourage recycling.

Local governments throughout California spend a total of \$16 million annually to collect unused paint through household hazardous waste programs, according to state estimates. It costs taxpayers and solid waste ratepayers about \$8 per gallon to collect and dispose of the paint through these programs.

San Joaquin County's household hazardous waste program director, Kimbra Andrews, will work on developing the project based on the National Paint Product Stewardship Initiative, then collaborate with other counties on implementing the plan.

The project will educate retailers, consumers and governments about accurately calculating paint needs and options for buying recycled paint and participating in paint exchanges.

Contact Waste & Recycling News senior reporter Bruce Geiselman at 330-865-6172 or [bgeiselman@crain.com](mailto:bgeiselman@crain.com)

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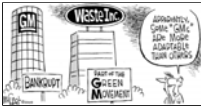
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