



September 7, 2007

Chair Margo Reid-Brown and Board Members
California Integrated Waste Management Board
1001 I Street
P.O. Box 4025
Sacramento, CA 95812

Sent via e-mail

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for Staff Recommendations in September 2007 Agenda Item #12

Dear Madam Chair and Board Members:

The Sonoma County Waste Management Agency (SCWMA) is a CIWMB-approved Regional Agency comprised of all the jurisdictions in Sonoma County tasked with many of the responsibilities of AB 939, including management of household hazardous wastes. In June 2001, the SCWMA, recognizing that Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a waste management approach that significantly improves our ability to manage discarded hazardous products, approved a resolution supporting EPR policies and efforts by governmental and non-governmental organizations to develop such policies. The SCWMA has maintained an active involvement in EPR efforts since then with recent actions including joining the California Product Stewardship Council and adopting an Extended Producer Responsibility Implementation Plan (www.recyclenow.org/EPR_Final_Report.pdf).

The SCWMA's EPR Implementation Plan has two phases. The first phase is to encourage producer responsibility by (1) supporting legislation at all levels, (2) include EPR language in procurement policies, and (3) encourage local businesses (retailers, wholesalers and contractors) to implement a voluntary take-back program for mercury-containing products (fluorescent lamps, thermostats, thermometers) and household batteries. The second phase, to be considered by the SCWMA in January 2008, would implement a local mandatory take-back ordinance for these products if legislative efforts fail to deal with these products at their end-of-life.

Based on these actions, the **SCWMA strongly supports Option 1 of the CIWMB's September 19, 2007 Agenda Item #12**, as it would be much more efficient and effective to have an EPR program developed and implemented on a statewide basis, rather than with a Sonoma County-only approach.

We are grateful to the Board and the Board staff for taking a leadership role to address this challenging component of the wastestream.

Sincerely,

Ken Wells, Executive Director
Sonoma County Waste Management Agency

c: Mark Leary, Executive Director, CIWMB

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