



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT



DEPARTMENT: Public Works

MEETING DATE: March 16, 2010

PREPARED BY: Ron Bow, Director

AGENDA LOCATION: AR-2

TITLE: Support of an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) System and Participation in the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC); Resolution No. 2010-14

OBJECTIVE: Adopt a resolution of support for an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) System and authorize the City Manager or his designee to execute the Pledge of Support and to become a California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) member.

BACKGROUND: Under the current waste management systems, responsibility for managing end-of-life systems for banned products (CFLs, batteries, universal wastes, etc.) falls on local governments. It is both the toxicity of the waste stream and the increasing collection costs that are a challenge to local governments.

In December 2009, the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) began implementing a household hazardous waste grant awarded by the Department of Resources, Recycling, and Recovery (CalRecycle) (formerly the California Integrated Waste Management Board). The program is intended to build knowledge and capacity among San Gabriel Valley local governments, retailers, producers, and other stakeholders to begin the transition from government managed and financed end-of-life (EOL) systems to producer-manage and financed EOL for products banned from landfills under the universal waste disposal ban. As a first step towards achieving this objective, the SGVCOG will utilize a regional approach to assist local businesses that sell compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) to establish "take-back" programs for disposal.

SGVCOG is working closely with the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) to implement this grant over the next two and a half years. CPSC is a coalition of local governments and their associations related to solid waste, recycling, resource conservation, environmental protection, water quality, and other cross-media issues. CPSC partners with non-governmental organizations, businesses and individuals to promote product stewardship and EPR in California.

ANALYSIS: Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) offers a solution by engaging producers in the lifecycle management of their products. EPR recognizes that all stakeholders share some responsibility, but the producer has the greatest responsibility; because only producers can change the design of products. EPR allows producers the flexibility to design programs that work for their product and business model. For example, producers may utilize and fund existing recycling facilities and programs, capitalize on existing distribution networks to create take-back programs that utilize "reverse retail", mail-back systems or work with other producers to develop product stewardship organizations. EPR also promotes improved product design; when producers are responsible for the end-of-life management of their products, there is a financial incentive to design products that have fewer toxic constituents, are longer lasting, and encourage recycling and reuse.

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The City of Monrovia is a member agency of the SGVCG and receives direct benefits from their grant funded efforts to establish local take-back opportunities and educate local businesses and stakeholders about EPR. In order to further EPR and product stewardship in the San Gabriel Valley, the SGVCOG has encouraged the City of Monrovia to adopt an EPR Resolution and become a participating member of the CPSC.

Rejection of the EPR policy or CPSC membership would not have a direct impact on the city; however, the greater support for EPR the more successful CPSC can be to help reduce the disposal cost for banned products, increase convenient disposal opportunities and encourage manufacturers to create less hazardous products.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT: Adoption of an EPR resolution is consistent with Action 5 of the Monrovia Environmental Accords, which strives to “reduce the use of disposable, toxic, or non-renewable product category by at least fifty percent by 2015.”

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact to the City of Monrovia resulting from the adoption of the resolution supporting EPR; however the City of Monrovia stands to gain fiscal relief in the future if the EPR policy is passed on a statewide level. Annual membership dues for the CPSC are \$1,000 which is budgeted in the Waste Management Fund.

OPTIONS: The following options are provided for consideration:

Option 1: Adopt the resolution in support of an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) System, authorize the City Manager or his designee to sign the CPSC Pledge of Support, and pursue CPSC membership.

Option 2: Reject the resolution of support and decline participation in the CPSC.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the City Council support the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) System and pursue CPSC membership.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: If the City Council concurs, the appropriate action would be a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2010-14.