RESOLUTION NO. 2008-184

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

March 25, 2008

SUPPORT FOR STATEWIDE EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY LEGISLATION FOR ELECTRONIC AND TOXIC WASTE

BACKGROUND

A. On February 8, 2006, California's Universal Waste Rule (CCR, Title 22, Division 4.5, Chapter 23) became effective.

B. The Universal Waste Rule bans landfill disposal of universal waste deemed hazardous, such as household batteries, fluorescent compact bulbs or tubes, thermostats, and other items that contain mercury, as well as electronic devices including video cassette recorders, microwave ovens, cellular phones, cordless phones, printers, and radios.

C. Universal waste management costs are currently funded by the residential rate payers of the City of Sacramento and are expected to increase dramatically in the short term unless policy changes are made.

D. It is anticipated that the list of universal waste determined to be hazardous and therefore banned from landfills will continue to grow.

E. As additional products are declared hazardous by the State, the burden to manage these universal wastes will continue to fall on the ratepayers of local jurisdictions.

F. There are significant environmental and human health impacts associated with improper management of universal waste.

G. Since local government ratepayers rather than product manufacturers currently bear the costs to properly manage universal waste, local governments are in effect subsidizing the production of universal waste.

H. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a policy approach in which producers assume responsibility for management of waste products, and this approach has been shown to be effective.

I. When producers are responsible for ensuring their products are recycled responsibly, and when health and environmental costs are included in the product price, there is a strong incentive to design and purchase goods that are more durable, easier to recycle, and less toxic.

J. It is timely to develop and support EPR legislation to address product stewardship for hazardous products currently banned from landfill disposal and those which will be added to the list of banned items in the future.

K. The California Integrated Waste Management Board is currently considering sponsoring EPR legislation.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council urges the City's representatives in the California Legislature to enact EPR legislation that shifts universal waste management costs from local government to the producer of the product, and gives producers the incentive to redesign products to make them less toxic and easier to recycle.

Section 2. City staff is directed to implement a procurement policy that promotes the use of less toxic products where feasible.

Section 3. The Mayor is authorized to send a letter to the League of California Cities, the California State Association of Counties, and the California Integrated Waste Management Board to urge support for EPR legislation.

Adopted by the City of Sacramento City Council on March 25, 2008 by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Cohn, Fong, Hammond, McCarty, Sheedy, Tretheway, Waters, and Mayor Fargo.

Noes: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Councilmember Pannell.

Heather Fargo

Mayor Heather Fargo

Attest:

Dawn Bullwinkel

Dawn Bullwinkel, Assistant City Clerk