

# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
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**Agenda Number:**  
**Prepared on:** 10/3/05  
**Department Name:** Public Works  
**Department No.:** 054  
**Agenda Date:** 11/1/05  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:**  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Phillip M. Demery, Director  
Public Works Department

**STAFF CONTACT:** Mark Schleich, Deputy Director, Resource Recovery & Waste Management, x 3605  
Alan Nakashima, Program Specialist, x 3616

**SUBJECT:** Renewal Application for Santa Barbara Regional Recycling Market Development Zone

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## **Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors adopt the attached resolution to:

- 1) authorize the submittal of an application to the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) to renew the designation of the Santa Barbara Regional Recycling Market Development Zone (hereinafter referred to as "Zone")); and
- 2) adopt the Negative Declaration pursuant to the State Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act.

## **Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 5.A High Quality of Life for All Residents.

## **Executive Summary and Discussion:**

The Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ) program is a partnership of local governments and the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) created to provide incentives to businesses that use recyclable materials from the waste stream as feedstock for their manufacturing processes. The RMDZs are geographic areas designated for 10 years by the CIWMB at the request of local governments. There are 40 RMDZs in California, encompassing most of the state. The CIWMB approved the designation of the Zone in January 1996. Current members of the Zone, besides the County of Santa Barbara, include the Cities of Carpinteria, Lompoc, Santa Barbara, and Santa Maria. With the approval of the renewal of the designation of the Zone, the participating members will include the County of Santa Barbara and the Cities of Goleta, Lompoc, Santa Barbara, and Santa Maria.

The RMDZ program combines recycling with economic development to foster new and existing recycling-based businesses and to create jobs. The primary benefit of being designated an RMDZ is that recycling-based manufacturers located in RMDZs are eligible to apply for low-interest loans provided by the CIWMB as well as receive other forms of assistance from local zone administrators and CIWMB staff. In addition to loans, the CIWMB offers technical assistance, product marketing, and permitting assistance. Technical assistance may be in the form of providing information (including technical reports) on sources of secondary materials and processes for various types of materials; providing fact sheets on material markets, technology, and organizations; and providing referrals to other sources of technical information, including online sources, as well as to other state and federal programs.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

The RMDZ program represents another tool to assist the County and the participating cities in their efforts to comply with the 50 percent diversion requirement set forth in the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Public Resources Code, Title 14, Division 7). By assisting new and existing recycling-based businesses to use recyclable materials from the waste stream as feedstock for their manufacturing processes, the RMDZ program can potentially help the County and the participating cities divert more material from their landfills. The RMDZ program helps “close the loop” by fostering markets for recycled-content products, as consumers purchase such products and learn about their economic and environmental benefits.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Approval of the attached resolution will enable the Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division of the Public Works Department to submit an application to the CIWMB to receive approval for the renewal of the designation of the Santa Barbara Regional Recycling Market Development Zone. The renewal of the designation will last for another 10 years. This approval will have no new fiscal or facility impacts as this is the renewal of an existing program.

**Special Instructions:**

Please return a copy of the signed Resolution to Alan Nakashima and Georgia Navarro in the Public Works Department, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division.

**Concurrence:**

County Counsel.

Attachment