



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Public Works  
Department No.: 054  
For Agenda Of: 06/07/2011  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Tme:  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Scott McGolpin, Public Works Director, ext. 3010  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Mark Schleich, Public Works Deputy Director, ext. 3603

**SUBJECT:** Resolution Supporting Extending Producer Responsibility (EPR)  
All Supervisorial Districts

**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:** N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

Adopt the attached Resolution supporting Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

**Summary Text:**

The California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) is a non-profit organization that formed in 2006 in response to the State's universal waste disposal ban that prohibited items such as batteries, fluorescent tubes, and electronics from being disposed in landfills. The goal was to provide a unified voice for local governments and other groups interested in establishing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs in California.

CPSC's mission statement is:

*To shift California's product waste management system from one focused on government funded and ratepayer financed waste diversion to one that relies primarily on producer responsibility in order to reduce public costs and drive improvements in product design that promote environmental sustainability.*

The County Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division has been a CPSC Local Government Associate since 2008, participating in monthly conference calls, webinars, and workshops sponsored

by the group. In January 2011, CPSC's Executive Director provided a presentation on EPR to the County's Multi-Jurisdictional Solid Waste Task Group (MJSWTG). The presentation was well received, and the MJSWTG's two County Supervisors expressed support for bringing an EPR Resolution before the full Board.

In May 2011 Public Works staff presented the attached Resolution to the Legislative Program Committee and obtained approval to present the item to the Board of Supervisors. The Committee members unanimously supported the item and recommended that the Board approve the Resolution.

**Background:**

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), also referred to as producer responsibility or product stewardship, describes a system in which manufacturers, retailers, and users of consumer products take responsibility for reducing the products' health and environmental impacts. EPR programs address how a product is manufactured, resulting in less toxic materials and more sustainable manufacturing processes, and how the product is managed at the end of its useful life, resulting in greater reuse and recycling.

By encouraging manufacturers to develop and/or support programs for the collection and recycling of their products, EPR helps relieve the financial burden currently placed on local governments, including the County of Santa Barbara, to manage these products. Particularly for hazardous materials such as paint, batteries, and fluorescent lighting, all of which are banned from landfill disposal, collection and disposal costs are significant. EPR programs shift these costs to those who use and benefit from the product, rather than rely on general ratepayers to cover the expense.

The requested Resolution will unite the County with over 100 other local governments throughout California, as well as the California State Association of Counties and League of California Cities, in voicing support for EPR. Specifically, the Resolution authorizes the Public Works Director to send letters in support of EPR legislation to State agencies, the State Legislature, and other applicable organizations. The Resolution also encourages the County to consider EPR in its purchasing policies and strive to choose vendors that use less toxic materials and provide take-back programs for their products.

**Budgeted: Yes**

**Staffing Impacts:**

There are no staffing impacts as a result of approving this Resolution.

**Special Instructions:**

Please return a copy of the signed Resolution to Leslie Robinson in the Public Works Department, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division.

**Attachments:**

Resolution Supporting Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

**Authored by:**

Leslie Robinson, Program Specialist, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division, ext. 3615