

**RESOLUTION NO. 2013-37**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS,  
SUPPORTING EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY**

**WHEREAS**, the Countywide Household Hazardous Waste Program (HHW) spent \$3.3 million to properly dispose of household hazardous waste in Fiscal Year 2012/13; and

**WHEREAS**, 873 City of Los Altos residents utilized HHW drop-off opportunities in FY 2012/13, which cost the City \$83,332 to fund; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 8, 2006 California's Universal Waste Rule (CCR, Title 22, Division 4.5, Chapter 23) became effective; and

**WHEREAS**, the Universal Waste Rule bans landfill disposal of certain products that are deemed hazardous including household batteries, fluorescent bulbs and tubes, thermostats and other items that contain mercury, as well as electronic devices such as video cassette recorders, microwave ovens, cellular phones, cordless phones, printers, and radios; and

**WHEREAS**, it is anticipated that the list of Universal and other waste products determined to be hazardous and therefore banned from landfills will continue to grow as demonstrated by the ban of treated wood effective 2007 and sharps in September 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, State policies currently make local governments responsible for achieving waste diversion goals and enforcing product disposal bans, both of which are unfunded mandates; and

**WHEREAS**, Universal Waste management costs are currently paid by taxpayers and rate payers and are expected to increase substantially in the short term unless policy changes are made; and

**WHEREAS**, local governments do not have the resources to adequately address the rising volume of discarded products; and

**WHEREAS**, costs paid by local governments to manage products are in effect subsidies to the producers of hazardous products and products designed for disposal; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Los Altos supports State-wide efforts to have producers share in the responsibility for Universal Waste products and other product waste management costs; and

**WHEREAS**, there are significant environmental and human health impacts associated with improper management of Universal Waste, sharps, pharmaceuticals, and other products; and

**WHEREAS**, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a policy approach in which producers assume financial responsibility for management of waste products and which has

been shown to be effective at increasing recovery and reducing costs of recovery systems; and

**WHEREAS**, when products are reused or recycled responsibly, and when health and environmental costs are included in the product price, there is an incentive to design products that are more durable, easier to repair and recycle, and less toxic; and

**WHEREAS**, EPR framework legislation establishes transparent and fair principles and procedures for applying EPR to categories of products for which improved design and management infrastructure is in the public interest; and

**WHEREAS**, the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) is an organization of California local governments and businesses working to speak with one voice in promoting transparent and fair EPR systems in California; and

**WHEREAS**, in January 2008, CalRecycle adopted a Framework for an EPR System in California; and

**WHEREAS**, in July 2008, the National Association of Counties adopted a resolution in support of a framework approach to EPR, in November 2009, the National League of Cities adopted EPR policy, and in June 2010, the US Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution in support of EPR.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the City Council of the City of Los Altos, as follows:

1. That the City Council of the City of Los Altos urges CalRecycle and the California Legislature to continue taking timely action to implement the Framework for an EPR System in California to manage problematic products, and to urge the Department of Toxic Substances Control to implement the Green Chemistry initiative to manage universal and other products; and
2. That the City Council of the City of Los Altos urges the California Legislature to enact product-specific and framework EPR legislation which will give producers the incentive to design products to make them less toxic and easier to reuse and recycle; and
3. That the City Manager be authorized to send letters to the League of California Cities, CalRecycle, the State legislature, and any other local government and to use other advocacy methods to urge support for EPR Framework or product legislation and related regulations when deemed appropriate; and
4. That the City Manager be authorized to sign the California Product stewardship Council Pledge of Support.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Los Altos encourages all manufacturers to share in the responsibility for eliminating waste through minimizing excess packaging, designing products for durability, reusability and the ability to be recycled, using recycled


materials in the manufacture of new products, and providing financial support for collection, processing, recycling, or disposal of used materials; and communicating with haulers and local governments about end of life management.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Los Altos at a meeting thereof on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2013 by the following vote:

AYES: BRUINS, CARPENTER, FISHPAW, PEPPER, SATTERLEE  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: NONE  
ABSTAIN: NONE

  
Megan Satterlee, MAYOR

Attest:

  
Jon Maginot, CMC, CITY CLERK