



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 7/10/2018

Agenda Placement: 10D

## NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Steven Lederer - Director of Public Works  
Public Works

**REPORT BY:** Deborah Elliott, Environmental Resource Specialist - 259-5969

**SUBJECT:** Adoption of a Resolution Restricting the Purchase of Bottled Water with County Funds

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

County Executive Officer/Purchasing Agent and Director of Public Works request adoption of a resolution restricting the purchase of bottled water with County funds.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The proposed resolution would restrict the purchase of bottled water using county funds to save money, reduce waste and pollution, and to protect the environment from the negative impacts of plastic water bottles.

The County Board of Supervisors has demonstrated their commitment to running the County in a sustainable manner. The Board has adopted Environmental Purchasing Policies, established the Sustainability Council, installed solar energy systems on several of our buildings, and supported the Green Business Program, among many other activities. Recently the Board set an example by having pitchers of water available at the dais rather than individual plastic water bottles. While it is clear that bottled water serves some necessary purposes (for instance in reserve for emergency services, or for use in the field), the routine purchase of bottled water is both costly and unnecessary. This resolution restricts the use of County funds for purchasing bottled water, but does provide necessary and flexible exemptions. It reads in part that, "to the maximum extent possible, County funds shall no longer be used to purchase single use water bottles, except in cases of emergency or where there are no reasonable alternatives; when there are hydration requirements for employees working outside of County facilities; or a department finds that relying on single use water bottles is necessary for public health, safety and welfare; or other legal or other contractual reasons are present." The purchasing restriction would take effect on September 1, 2018 and will be written in to future revisions of the Purchasing Policy.

The use of single-use plastic bottles cause severe environmental impacts. These impacts include greenhouse gas emissions, litter, harm to wildlife, atmospheric acidification, water use and solid waste generation. Bottled

water is also 7000 times more expensive than tap water, and is not regulated to the same level of purity.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Is there a Fiscal Impact?                      No

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

Consideration and possible adoption of a Categorical Exemption Class 7: It has been determined that this type of project does not have a significant effect on the environment and is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act. [See Class 7 ("Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources") which may be found in the guidelines for the implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act at 14 CCR §15307.]

### **BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION**

On November 10, 2009, the Board adopted an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy (EPP), which among other things directed the formation of a Sustainability Council. The Sustainability Council was formed in March 2010, and is made up of representatives from County Departments. The Council meets quarterly and focuses on actions that can be implemented Countywide and have been voted on by the committee. In 2018, the SC chose to focus on three program areas. These areas include:

- | Resolution to restrict the purchase of bottled water with County funds
- | Zero Waste Tip Sheet - for events and meetings organized by County staff
- | Napa County Quick Guide to Sustainability - Admin Form

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The use of single-use plastic bottles cause severe environmental impacts. These impacts include greenhouse gas emissions, litter, harm to wildlife, atmospheric acidification, water use and solid waste generation. According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, California cities spend about \$11 per resident to keep litter from ending up in our oceans as marine pollution (<https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/ca-pollution-in-waterways-1B.pdf>), and a jurisdiction's general fund often bears the brunt of the clean-up costs of this litter.

In 2016, the Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA) conducted a study titled Tracking

California's Trash. The study looked at trash collected in flowing receiving waters in collaboration with 5 Gyres. 5 Gyres sampled three creeks in the Bay Area (Colma, Coyote and San Mateo) and one in Southern California (Arroyo Seco) with a variety of different types of trawls which were lowered into flowing creeks and captured in their contents in netted bags. Of the trash collected, 8% was plastic California Redemption Value bottles (CRV). Altogether, plastic and plastic-like substances made up 67% of the total trash that was collected.

In 2007, the Mayor of San Francisco signed an executive order barring the purchase of bottled water by City Departments with City funds and in 2014, San Francisco passed an ordinance to restrict the sale or distribution on City property of drinking water in plastic bottles of 21 ounces or less, set City policy to increase the availability of drinking water in public areas, and bar the use of City funds to purchase bottled water.

The documents referenced by the links in this background section are available upon request to the Clerk of the Board.

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

A . Bottled Water Resolution

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Bret Prebula