



**NAPA-VALLEJO WASTE
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

Agenda Date: 3/2/2006

Agenda Placement: 7A

Napa-Vallejo Waste Management Authority **Board Agenda Letter**

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Trent Cave - Director
Napa-Vallejo Waste Management Authority
REPORT BY: Belinda Yamate, Secretary, 253-4471
SUBJECT: Universal Waste

RECOMMENDATION

UNIVERSAL WASTE

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Manager to discuss the options for universal waste recycling/disposal.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff will report on recent changes to regulations governing the disposal of universal waste to the municipal solid waste stream, and recycling opportunities for the waste.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

On February 9th, an exemption in State regulations allowing households and other small quantity generators to dispose of some widely generated hazardous waste known as "universal waste" to the municipal waste stream expired. The waste that is no longer allowed to be placed in the trash includes: alkaline, rechargeable and small sealed lead acid batteries; fluorescent, high intensity discharge, and sodium lamps; mercury containing thermometers, switches, gauges and other devices; and consumer electronic devices. While disposal of televisions and computer monitors in the municipal waste stream has been illegal for several years, it is now illegal to dispose of computers, cell phones, microwaves, printers, radios, VCRs, and any other device exhibiting the "characteristic of toxicity" as defined by the Department of Toxic Substances Control.

Batteries are currently accepted at the Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility, Reuse and Recycling Yard, and tipping floor at the Devlin Road Transfer Station. They are also accepted at a number of businesses in the city of Napa, and at Clover Flat Landfill.

Staff recommends the Authority use and promote the use of rechargeable batteries as an alternative to disposable batteries. There is currently in place an advanced disposal fee for rechargeable batteries that allows businesses and public agencies to mail the batteries in prepaid boxes to a recycler.

Currently the only public collection location for universal waste lamps is the Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility. Staff is working on an informational handout of companies that provide collection and recycling services for universal waste lamps.

Consumer electronic devices are currently accepted only at the City of Napa's Materials Diversion Facility and at the City's annual collection event at Napa College. There is no plan to begin accepting electronic devices at the Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

Manager: Approve

Reviewed By: Jill Pahl