



June 10, 2008

Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Alameda
1221 Oak Street, Suite 536
Oakland, California 94612-4305

Dear Board Members:

SUBJECT: ADOPT 75% WASTE DIVERSION RESOLUTION AND BAY-FRIENDLY
LANDSCAPING RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION:

- A. Adopt a resolution establishing a goal of 75% reduction of waste going to landfills by 2010 for County operations and County Unincorporated Areas; and
- B. Adopt a resolution establishing Bay-Friendly Landscaping practices as a guideline for County landscaping and for private/public partnership projects.

DISCUSSION/SUMMARY:

When the Alameda County Waste Reduction and Recycling Initiative Charter Amendment (Measure D) was approved by voters in 1990, it established countywide waste reduction goals. A goal of 50% diversion was established for the year 2000, and subsequently the Integrated Waste Management Plan established a diversion goal of "75% and beyond." Alameda County as a whole has met the 2000 target. Further, studies of the overall waste stream by StopWaste.Org show that plant debris from landscape construction, renovation, and maintenance comprises 7% of the materials disposed in Alameda County landfills. Traditional landscaping design and practices not only fill up our landfills with waste plant debris, they use significant amounts of chemicals and the County's precious and limited drinking water supply. To formalize the County's commitment to meet these sustainability challenges, the Community Development Agency (CDA), the General Services Agency (GSA), and the Public Works Agency (PWA) have partnered to develop the attached resolutions.

The Waste Diversion Resolution formally adopts a diversion target of 75% by 2010 for County operations and the unincorporated areas. The Resolution directs CDA to work with community members and local waste and recycling service providers to achieve this goal for the unincorporated communities and to reinforce waste reduction in the General Plans and other community development activities. The Resolution also directs GSA to develop strategies to achieve the 75% goal for county operations in cooperation with County agencies. Additionally,

it directs all County agencies to minimize their waste generation and improve recycling practices as a priority in their own operations as well as in the services provided to them by outside contractors. This Resolution also commits the County to review adopting a Zero Waste goal once the 75% goal is achieved.

The Bay-Friendly Landscaping Resolution directs GSA, PWA, and all other County agencies making landscaping decisions to include bay-friendly landscaping elements from the StopWaste.Org Bay-Friendly Landscaping Guidelines. Specifically, County landscape projects and public-private partnership landscape projects built on County-owned land or funded by the County will incorporate Bay-Friendly principles. Additionally, County landscapes will be maintained using the sustainable principles outlined in the Guidelines as practicable.

Additionally, the Bay-Friendly Landscaping Resolution sets specific requirements that landscaping for all new facilities will not use traditional grass turf unless required for specific functional use such as athletic fields. In such cases, drought-tolerant low-chemical varieties shall be planted. It also commits the County to actively pursue a replacement program of high-water landscaping, such as grass turf, with Bay-Friendly drought-resistant landscaping at all County facilities. Lastly, the Resolution directs CDA to encourage private landscape projects to include Bay-Friendly landscaping elements.

FINANCING:

Funding will be addressed as programs and projects are developed and before they are implemented. Adoption of these resolutions maintains the County's eligibility for funding from Stopwaste.Org.

Respectfully Submitted,



James Sorensen
Director, Community Development Agency



Aki K. Nakao
Director, General Services Agency



Daniel Woldesenbet
Director, Public Works Agency

Attachments

AKN/JRK/CB/mg:I:\Board Letters\TSD\07-08 fiscal year\Bayfriendly Landscaping.doc

cc: Susan S. Muranishi, County Administrator
Patrick O'Connell, Auditor-Controller
Richard Winnie, County Counsel
Karen Smith, StopWaste.Org

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-_____

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A GOAL OF 75% REDUCTION IN WASTE GOING TO LANDFILLS BY 2010 FOR UNINCORPORATED AREAS AND CIVIC OPERATIONS OF THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda:

Whereas, the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939) mandated that all California jurisdictions reduce the quantity of solid waste disposed in landfills by 50% by 2000; and

Whereas, the unincorporated communities of Alameda County have met the 50% waste reduction goal; and

Whereas, since 1990 the County has offered a range of recycling and waste reduction programs to County employees to promote a sustainable and healthy workplace; and

Whereas, in 1990 Alameda County's voters passed Measure D (the Alameda County Waste Reduction and Recycling Initiative Charter Amendment), setting a countywide goal of reducing the waste going to landfills 75% by 2010; and

Whereas, Alameda County wishes to do its part to achieve the countywide goal of 75%; and

Whereas, Alameda County has adopted a number of programs and policies which support this goal including green building standards, construction and demolition debris diversion requirements, property and salvage center, environmental purchasing practices, commercial and curbside recycling programs, and a food waste collection program; and

Whereas, the General Plans for Castro Valley, Eden Area, and the East County include goals to ensure efficient recycling including coordination with the Alameda County Integrated Waste Management Plan, promotion of source reduction, recycling, and composting, and zoning to allow waste recovery facilities; and

Whereas, in 2006 the County established a Climate Change Leadership Strategy, and resource conservation and recycling will significantly reduce Alameda County's contributions to climate change; and

Whereas, the County Strategic Vision, in principal, establishes sustainability as a principle for decision-making; and

Whereas, disposing materials in landfills and incinerators causes damage to human health, wastes natural resources and wrongly transfers liabilities to future generations; and

Whereas, taxpayers, consumers, and local governments are currently forced to assume the high financial cost of collecting, recycling, and disposing of materials; and

Whereas, waste is a result of poor product design and producers should design products that can be safely and easily recycled back into the marketplace or nature; and

Whereas, a resource recovery-based economy will create and sustain more productive and meaningful jobs; and

Whereas, in 2001 the California Integrated Waste Management Board set a goal of Zero Waste in its strategic plan for the state; and cities, councils, counties worldwide have adopted a goal of achieving zero waste.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT:

Resolved, that the Board of Supervisors hereby adopts a goal of 75% reduction of waste going to landfills by 2010 for the County of Alameda, in accordance with the countywide 75% waste reduction goal using the existing state of California Diversion rate methodology for measurement; and

Further **Resolved**, that the Board of Supervisors strongly requests local waste and recycling service providers to achieve the 75% goal for unincorporated communities, which will be measured in accordance with the Countywide goal using the existing State of California diversion rate methodology for measurement, and directs the Community Development Agency to provide all practicable assistance to these providers and other public agencies to achieve this goal; and

Further **Resolved**, that these strategies shall be reinforced in General Plans and other community development activities; and

Further **Resolved**, that the Board of Supervisors directs the General Services Agency to develop strategies to achieve the 75% goal for county operations in cooperation with all employees and agencies, which will be measured through internal inventories; and

Further **Resolved**, that all agencies will report annually on their efforts to minimize waste generation and promote recycling within their agencies and for services provided to them by outside contractors; and

Further **Resolved**, that County employees are expected to recycle and reuse all materials for which recycling programs are available, and consider the full lifecycle of products when using materials; and

Further **Resolved**, that the County will partner with StopWaste.Org, recycling companies, local businesses, and sustainability advocates to strengthen the County's economy by stimulating sustainable local enterprises that use discarded products and to develop strategies to advance "upstream" waste prevention strategies such as product redesign, process re-engineering, and low-impact lifestyles; and

Finally **Resolved**, that the County will review adopting a Zero Waste goal once the 75% goal is achieved.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda, State of California this seventeenth day of June, Two Thousand and Eight.

Scott Haggerty, President
Supervisor, 1st District

Alice Lai-Bitker, Vice President
Supervisor, 3rd District

Gail Steele
Supervisor, 2nd District

Nate Miley
Supervisor, 4th District

Keith Carson
Supervisor, 5th District

ATTEST:

Clerk, Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



County Counsel

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-_____

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A BAY-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING POLICY
FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda:

Whereas, studies of the overall waste stream by StopWaste.Org show that plant debris from landscape construction, renovation and maintenance comprises 7% of the materials disposed in Alameda County landfills; and

Whereas, the State of California is experiencing significant drought, and traditional landscaping practices consume large volumes of drinking water; and

Whereas, in 2001 the EPA listed all the creeks in the San Francisco Bay Area as impaired due to pesticide contamination; and

Whereas, Bay-Friendly Landscaping is a whole systems approach which supports the integrity of the San Francisco Bay watershed by reducing waste and using recycled content materials; nurturing healthy soils while reducing fertilizer use; conserving water, energy and topsoil; using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to minimize chemical use; reducing stormwater runoff; and creating wildlife habitat; and

Whereas, in 2001 the Board of Supervisors established a policy on pesticide use requiring each County agency that uses pesticide to adopt an Integrated Pest Management plan; and

Whereas, the Board of Supervisors finds that County agencies and personnel, particularly the General Services Agency, have taken steps to successfully practice Bay-Friendly Landscaping; and

Whereas, the County Strategic Vision, in principal, establishes sustainability as a principle for decision-making, and Bay-Friendly Landscaping enhances urban sustainability; and

Whereas, Bay-Friendly landscape design, construction, operation and maintenance promotes reduced use of chemicals, energy and water conservation, waste reduction, healthy wildlife habitat, the health of the San Francisco Bay watershed, improved air quality and the health of residents, employees, and visitors to the County; and

Whereas, studies by StopWaste.Org show that Bay-Friendly Landscaping reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 4 tons CO₂ equivalent per acre relative to conventional landscaping practices due to less waste transportation, less organic debris in the landfill, reduced trimming and mowing, fewer chemicals, reduced water consumption, and increased soil organic matter; and

Whereas, Bay-Friendly Landscaping can result in significant cost savings to the County over the life of the projects; and

Whereas, the County finds that it is critical to both the economic and environmental health of the County that the County provide leadership to the private and public sectors by demonstrating the benefits of Bay-Friendly landscaping; and

Whereas, in Alameda County, StopWaste.Org has defined and promoted environmentally friendly landscaping for the commercial, institutional and residential sectors by developing the Bay-Friendly Landscape Guidelines for professional landscapers and the Bay-Friendly Gardening Guide for residents.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT:

Resolved, that the Board of Supervisors directs the General Services Agency, Public Works Agency, and all other County agencies making landscaping decisions to include Bay-Friendly landscaping elements in County landscape projects and in public-private partnership landscape projects built on County-owned land or funded in part or fully by the County; and

Further **Resolved**, that all projects with landscapes which are officially identified and substantially funded on or after the effective date of this Resolution shall have a project goal of reaching at least the minimum points as identified on the StopWaste.Org Bay-Friendly Landscape Scorecard, and that agencies managing such projects will report annually on their progress to the BOS; and

Further **Resolved**, that landscaping for all new facilities will not use conventional grass turf unless required for specific functional use such as an athletic field, in which case drought-tolerant low-chemical varieties shall be planted; and

Further **Resolved**, that the County will actively pursue a program to replace high-water landscaping, such as grass turf, with Bay-Friendly drought-resistant landscaping in all County facilities and will evaluate the availability and economic feasibility of conversion to reclaimed water for all County landscaping; and

Further **Resolved**, that Bay-Friendly practices shall be incorporated into the maintenance of County landscapes by the General Services and Public Works Agencies and their contractors where practicable and cost effective; and

Further **Resolved**, that the Public Works Agency shall regularly review the project specifications used in bidding traditional public works projects to include the best environmental practices and Bay-Friendly landscaping practices applicable; and

Finally, **Resolved**, that the Board of Supervisors directs the Community Development Agency to encourage private landscaping projects to include Bay-Friendly landscaping elements.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda, State of California this seventeenth day of June, Two Thousand and Eight.

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