

# Agenda Report

DATE: August 11, 2003

TO: CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH: Legislative Committee (August 5, 2003)

FROM: Cynthia J. Kurtz, City Manager

SUBJECT: Support of Senate Bill 20 (Sher)  
*Hazardous Electronic Waste: Recovery, Reuse and Recycling*

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the City Council send a letter supporting Senate Bill 20 to the Assembly Appropriations Committee and Assembly Member Carol Liu by August 14, 2003. This legislation will potentially benefit the City of Pasadena by providing grant funding for hazardous electronic waste (e-waste) collection and will place more responsibility on manufacturers to mitigate the disposal problem when devices become obsolete.

## **Background**

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) banned the disposal of cathode ray tubes (CRTs) in monitors and TV's from landfills in 2001, and classified this as Hazardous Electronic Waste. Hazardous electronic waste is defined as a consumer product, component, or device that uses an electric current and which the DTSC determines is a hazardous material or hazardous waste. Hazardous electronic devices include, but are not limited to, computer monitors, televisions and other, similar, devices containing lead.

In 2002, Senator Byron Sher introduced SB 1523 which would have placed a \$10 advance recycling fee on the sale of all new CRTs sold in California. SB 1523 passed both houses but was vetoed by the Governor. However, in his veto statement Governor Davis said he would sign legislation in 2003 that challenges industry to assume greater responsibility for the recycling and safe disposal of electronic waste.

There is a critical need to fund programs for safe disposal of hazardous electronic waste. At the June 14, 2003 Household Hazardous Waste Roundup at the Rose Bowl

51,000 pounds of e-waste was collected. In 2002, the City of Pasadena collected and disposed of nearly 70 tons of e-waste in the course of two special collection events at a cost of approximately \$15,900. In addition to the scheduled events, the City has incurred over \$3,078 in collection and disposal cost for "abandoned" electronic waste over the last three (3) month period and it is anticipated the expense for disposal of abandoned e-waste will continue to escalate. The City is again responsible for an unfunded mandate resulting from the DTSC landfill ban in 2001.

**SB 20**

SB 20 would require manufacturers or their designees to develop, finance and implement an e-waste recovery system.

Key Components of SB 20
The manufacturers' e-waste recovery systems must include collection, handling, transportation, processing, reuse and recycling.
Recovery systems must be approved by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB).
Eligible collection systems must be cost-free to consumers who recycle and at least as convenient as the purchase and delivery of new devices.
Manufacturers can opt to forego collection and recycling by paying a fee to the CIWMB. The revenues would be used to establish an e-waste management program that will include providing grant funding to local governments to implement or maintain existing e-waste collection programs.
Manufacturers must reach a 50% recovery rate of hazardous e-waste sold by 2006 and the CIWMB would be authorized to set subsequent target dates.
Manufacturers must notify the DTSC of intended hazardous e-waste exportation and demonstrate such exports will be handled in a manner at least as protective as California's health and environmental laws and regulations
DTSC must adopt regulations to phase out hazardous materials used in the manufacturing of electronic devices no later than January 1, 2007.
The bill will sunset if the Federal Government implements an electronic waste recycling program or if the Courts determine that out-of-state manufacturers are not subject to the fee (in lieu of preparing a recovery plan).

The bill has the widespread support of 67 local governments, the League of California Cities, the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Task Force, electronic recyclers, waste haulers, environmental organizations and 11 Joint Power Authorities. Opposed to the bill are 11 entities comprised of manufacturers, electronics trade associations, and the California Chamber of Commerce.


**Fiscal Impact**

The City has expended \$3,078.00 in the last three (3) months to dispose of illegally abandoned electronic waste. Grant funding generated as a result of passage of this bill would provide funds to collect abandoned e-waste items and/or implement additional e-waste collection programs.

Respectfully submitted,

  
CYNTHIA J. KURTZ  
City Manager

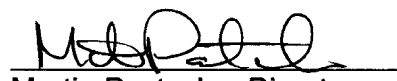
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