

CITY COUNCIL

Transfer Medical Waste Generator Inspection Program to SDHS

May 18, 1998

agency for the rest of the county. The State Department of Health Services eventually provided the necessary staffing resources to cover the rest of the county, except in Long Beach, Vernon and Pasadena.

Under the Medical Waste Management Act, the California Department of Health Services has specific enforcement authority. This authority was passed on to the local health jurisdictions that accepted responsibility for the inspection program and includes: 1) regulating businesses that produce more than 200 pounds of medical waste a month, including acute care hospitals such as Huntington Memorial and St. Luke Medical Center; 2) regulating businesses that use on-site chemical or heat treatment to render their medical wastes non-infectious; and (3) investigating all complaints related to improper disposal of medical waste.

Regulated businesses pay \$400 to \$500 (based on amount of waste produced and number of beds, if applicable) to partially offset the cost of enforcement, inspection and education activities. Collection of these fees results in approximately \$2,500 annually. Collection of these fees will transfer to the state along with responsibility for the program.

While the Pasadena Environmental Health Division operated the Medical Waste Generators Inspection Program for the city during the past six years, the State Department of Health Services (SDHS) managed the program for the rest of Los Angeles County. The SDHS Medical Waste Management Program is a specialized division which performs this function throughout the state. The transfer of this non-mandated program will be beneficial to the community since the state program ensures expertise and resources which allow economies of scale in performing the inspections and enforcement activities. The SDHS will easily absorb the additional six applicable businesses located in Pasadena. The return of the program to the SDHS has been approved by the State. Local acute care hospitals are also inspected by the Health Care Facility Division of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services which regulates the facilities and enforces some of the requirements for the storage and disposal of their medical waste.

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution to transfer the Medical Waste Generators Inspection Program from the Public Health Department to the State of California Department of Health Services, effective retroactively to February 1, 1998. The enforcement of the California Health and Safety Code, Chapter 6.1 of Division 20, would reside with the State Department of Health Services, Medical Waste Management Program.

It is also recommended that the City Council direct the City Attorney Office to draft an ordinance to repeal Section 8.81 of the Pasadena Municipal Code, Medical Waste Management Act.

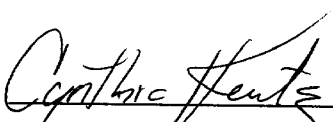
FISCAL IMPACT


The action by City Council will have no fiscal impact, since revenues normally collected under this program and appropriated to the Health Fund have not been included in the FY


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1999 recommended budget. There is no fiscal impact during the current fiscal year since the services have been performed, and the revenues have been received.

Respectfully submitted,


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