

County Of Sonoma Agenda Item Summary Report

Clerk of the Board Use Only
Meeting Date Held Until
 / / / /
Agenda Item No: Agenda Item No:

Department: General Services

4/5 Vote Not Required

Contact:
Gene Clark

Phone:
(707) 565-2433

Board Date:
9/22/2009

Deadline for Board Action:

AGENDA SHORT TITLE: Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy.

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION: Resolution replacing the existing and more limited County policy for procurement of recycled products with an expanded policy for the procurement of environmentally preferable (Green) products.

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT - None.

Explanation (if required): None.

Prior Board Action: Summary action Sept. 12, 2006, Board adopted Climate Protection Action Plan. Resolution 89-2195 Board established procurement policy of recycled products.

Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval: None.

Background:

In 1989, the Board established a policy for the purchase of recycled goods whenever possible as a commitment to the conservation and protection of natural resources. The Board continued its commitment to the environment in 2006 by adopting the County’s Climate Protection Plan and establishing an Energy Division in the General Services Department.

The proposed policy will replace the County’s current policy regarding the purchase of recycled goods with a more encompassing policy that establishes County standards for green procurement based on criteria and definitions recognized by the Federal and State government. Environmentally preferable (green) products and services are those that have a reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose.

By expanding environmental considerations beyond recycled materials in the County’s purchasing decisions, the County will further its commitment to the goals of the County’s Climate Protection Action Plan by promoting practices that improve public health and safety, reduce pollution and conserve natural resources and energy.

The public’s growing awareness and demand for green products has lead to marketing ploys that include self certification and false claims. This policy includes recognition of environmental certifications that are based on 3rd party independent review of environmental claims. These environmental certifications are recognized by Federal and State government.

With board approval, the 5% preference that is currently allowed in bid results for recycled goods will be expanded to bid results that can meet the County’s criteria for environmental considerations, along with traditional concerns of price, performance and delivery. In addition, companies will be encouraged to take back products at the end of their usefulness (e.g., total life cycle costs), which will result in less items going to the landfill.

Attachments: Resolution.

On File With Clerk: Sonoma County’s Environmentally Preferably Purchasing Policy.
Resolution No. 89-2195 establishing policy for procurement of recycled products.

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than “Requested”)

Vote: