



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

CITY HALL

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CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Meeting: December 19, 2017

Subject

Establish a Zero Waste Policy for the City of Cupertino.

Recommended Action

Adopt the draft resolution to establish and authorize a Zero Waste Policy for the City of Cupertino.

Discussion

The purpose of this Zero Waste Policy is to:

- Protect the environment and conserve natural resources
- Prevent pollutants from entering the air, land, and water
- Follow the principle of highest and best use so that reducing and reusing waste materials occurs first, followed by recycling and composting, so that eventually no material goes to landfill or high-temperature destruction.
- Create a more sustainable, efficient economy
- Preserve the environment for future generations

The action of adopting a Zero Waste Policy for Cupertino will memorialize many of the practices that the City and the community has been embracing for more than a decade. This is important because establishing a policy is likely to accelerate waste prevention and to achieve the zero waste targets recommended by Council in the City's Climate Action Plan. Adoption of a Zero Waste Policy will also further support the variety of programs and educational events currently done within the City that support zero waste principles. Popular examples include the annual third grade creek education program, free confidential document shredding and recycling at quarterly Environmental Recycling Days, free compost give-away processed from the community's organic materials, and free unlimited door to door collection and recycling of hazardous materials such as electronic waste and used paint, pesticides, cleansers and garden chemicals.

On November 16th, 2017, staff presented the draft Zero Waste Policy to the Sustainability Commission which the Commission had reviewed and commented on several months

prior. After re-evaluation of each component of the policy the Commission voted unanimously to recommend that City Council vote to adopt the attached Zero Waste Policy. Other neighboring cities and counties that have adopted similar policies include Mountain View, Palo Alto, San José, Sunnyvale and the County of Santa Clara.

Sustainability Impacts

CalRecycle reports that of the nearly 35 million tons of waste that reach California's landfills each year, approximately 80% could be recoverable through organics and construction and demolition debris collection programs. The proposed zero waste policy objectives support efforts to recover and repurpose material from these waste streams.

CEQA Exemption

Staff has determined that this action is exempt from the requirements of the CEQA in that it is not a project which has the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment and is a regulatory action as authorized by State law. This determination is pursuant to the provisions and requirements of the CEQA of 1970, together with related State CEQA Guidelines and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15307.

Fiscal Impact

Adoption of a Zero Waste Policy resolution results in no additional fiscal impact.

Prepared by: Cheri Donnelly, Environmental Programs Manager

Reviewed by: Timm Borden, Director of Public Works

Approved for Submission by: David Brandt, City Manager

Attachments:

A – Draft Resolution

B – Zero Waste Policy