

City of Calistoga

Staff Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Erik V. Lundquist, Associate Planner

VIA: Charlene Gallina, Director of Planning & Building

DATE: May 4, 2010

SUBJECT: Community Resources Commission's Waste Reduction Recommendations

APPROVAL FOR FORWARDING:



 James C. McCann, City Manager

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 2 **ISSUE:** Consider the Community Resources Commission's (CRC's) recommendations
 3 to facilitate community waste reduction efforts.

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 5 **RECOMMENDATION:** Receive report, discuss and consider directing Councilmember
 6 Slusser to recommend four (4) program ideas at the next available Upper Valley Waste
 7 Management Agency (UVWMA) Meeting.

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 9 1. Ask the regional waste agency to create a dedicated hazardous waste collection
 10 fund for regular collections.
 11 2. Ask the regional agency to increase financial incentives for business recycling by
 12 placing waste service charges on trash bin service and significantly reduced or
 13 no cost on recycling bin service.
 14 3. Ask the regional waste agency to reduce methane production from landfilled
 15 organic waste by preventing the burial of organics at the landfill.
 16 4. Ask the regional waste agency to assist with purchases of recycling bins for
 17 public areas.
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19 **BACKGROUND:** On August 18, 2009 the City Council held a special joint meeting,
 20 wherein they solicited comments and discussed the preliminary draft Napa Countywide
 21 Climate Action Plan and supplemental Climate Action Plan (CAP) Framework.
 22 Subsequent to discussion, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2009-070
 23 establishing a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 15% below 2005 emission

24 levels by 2020 and supporting certain countywide and local actions to achieve these
25 targets. One such local action implores the City to "Implement programs to facilitate
26 community waste reduction".

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28 **DISCUSSION:** In the early 1990's, the City joined with up-valley communities St.
29 Helena, Yountville, and Napa County to form a waste management agency to meet
30 regional waste reduction and recycling requirements set forth by the state. The agency
31 is run by a board comprised of one representative from each of the cities and two from
32 the county. City Council member Karen Slusser serves as City of Calistoga
33 representative. The agency, named Upper Valley Waste Management Agency (UVA),
34 hires the Upper Valley Disposal Service to collect recyclable items, greenwaste, and
35 trash from local homes and businesses. It also regulates activities and user fees at
36 Clover Flat Landfill. In previous years, it has hired a hazardous waste hauling company
37 to hold special collection events at Calistoga Fairgrounds.

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39 Though the City is no longer the lead agency on local waste management issues, it
40 does influence regional waste management through its representative to the UVA.
41 Local volunteers and City-appointed committee members can play an important role in
42 encouraging and working directly with agencies on waste management issues. One
43 recent example is the pharmaceutical collection day co-sponsored by the City Police
44 Department and Soroptimist International of Calistoga; another is the new battery and
45 fluorescent lamp collection at the Calistoga Fire Station and Ace Hardware which was
46 coordinated by City CRC members, the City Fire Chief, and UVA staff.

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48 To further this effort, the CRC has developed a short list of issues that relate directly to,
49 or may be influenced by, ongoing work and concerns of the CRC through their work
50 program.

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52 Members focused on four main issues relating to solid waste management that are of
53 increasing concern to society, but moreover, to City residents and businesses. The
54 issues might best be described as follows:

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- 56 1. Convenient hazardous waste collection;
- 57 2. Recycling by businesses;
- 58 3. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- 59 4. Convenient recycling in public areas;

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61 The CRC developed four recommendations to address these issues as follows:

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63 Provide Convenient Collection of Hazardous Waste - Calistogans have few options for
64 safe and convenient disposal of most hazardous wastes. City residents and businesses

65 can deliver a limited number of recyclable hazardous material types to Clover Flat
66 Landfill, but must travel much further out of their way to the collection facility near the
67 City of American Canyon to dispose of their most toxic, corrosive and hazardous
68 wastes. In 2009 and again in 2010, the regional waste agency cancelled household
69 hazardous waste events held previously at Calistoga Fairgrounds, due to reduction in
70 local funding.

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72 UVWMA funded the HHW collection events held in previous years through fees charged
73 to users of Clover Flat Landfill. The events were free to all residents in up-valley
74 communities. The economic slump has led to less waste arriving at the landfill and
75 therefore less money collected in fees. To adjust for lower revenues, the agency has
76 decided to cut hazardous waste collections.

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78 The CRC is concerned that the lack of convenient hazardous waste collections will
79 encourage residents and businesses to stockpile dangerous materials or to dispose of
80 them inappropriately. The UVA should be requested to create a dedicated fund for
81 hazardous waste collections so that residents can rely on at least once a year
82 convenient collection events.

83
84 Improve Incentives for Business Recycling - California passed AB 32 in 2006
85 substantially to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and promote "green jobs." The law
86 compels communities to improve energy savings by requiring that businesses recycle.
87 The new rules will be enforced through air quality measures. Communities will need to
88 either enact tougher regulatory measures for business recycling or emphasize
89 incentives to bring the business community into compliance.

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91 The regional waste agency current fees for recycling or trash collection offer some
92 encouragement to recycle. But many businesses would pay substantially higher fees if
93 they add recycling service. To encourage more businesses to recycle, the UVA should
94 be requested to improve financial incentives for business recycling by decreasing
95 recycling charges and increasing trash charges. This would allow businesses to gain
96 financially by recycling.

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98 Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions at Clover Flat Landfill - State law (AB 32) requires
99 California communities develop plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to levels
100 produced in 1990. The City is investigating how it might best accomplish this goal.

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102 Research at the state level has found that landfills are a major source of methane, a
103 greenhouse gas at least twenty times more powerful than carbon dioxide. Methane is
104 produced when organic waste decomposes without much oxygen in a landfill. Calistoga

105 residents and businesses contribute to future methane production when their organic
106 wastes, like greenwaste, foodwaste, or paper are buried.

107

108 The City can reduce methane production at the landfill by directing organic materials
109 from the landfill to the local composting facilities. This may be one of the most
110 productive and cost-effective approaches to reducing greenhouse gases in our area.
111 The City should request UVA to eliminate the burial of organic wastes at Clover Flat
112 Landfill.

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114 Make Recycling Convenient in Public Areas - Most Calistoga residents are able to
115 recycle at home, at recycling drop-off sites, or sometimes at work. But opportunities for
116 recycling in some public areas are relatively limited.

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118 Recycling in public areas works best when trash containers and recycling bins are
119 placed together in pairs. There are many public areas of town that are lacking
120 appropriately matched trash and recycling bins. There is a need for more recycling bins
121 to match with trash bins in public areas.

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123 The City may be able to take advantage of a state program that supports recycling
124 projects in each community: the "Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction
125 Program." The City of Calistoga allows the regional waste agency (UVA) to receive and
126 pool the City's share of these program funds for cooperative regional recycling efforts.
127 The UVA used these funds to purchase some buy recycling bins for some sites along
128 Lincoln Ave. The City should request the UVA to again provide funds for more recycling
129 bins in public areas in Calistoga.

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131 **NEXT STEPS:**

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133 At this time, the CRC is requesting that the City Council support these four
134 recommendations and direct Councilmember Slusser to present these
135 recommendations at the next available UVWMA Meeting.

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