

September 19, 2006

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: County Offices Battery Recycling

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize the Department of Public Works to facilitate the expansion of battery recycling to all County offices.

SUMMARY: As a leader in progressive practices, your Board has been proactive in guiding Marin towards environmentally sound practices. Recycling and reuse have been a top priority for the County and the public.

Household batteries contain hazardous constituents that pose a threat to the environment and human health. Chemicals in common household batteries have the potential to contaminate soil, water, and harm wildlife. As of February 8, 2006, household batteries and other Universal Wastes, including mercury containing products and electronic products, are prohibited from disposal in landfills.

Four years ago the Department of Public Works implemented a pilot program to collect and recycle spent batteries it generates. The program handles both rechargeable and one time use batteries for all Public Works Divisions. To date the total batteries collected is 1,050 lbs., which is the equivalent of 21,000 AA batteries. The success of Public Works' program and the February 8, 2006, Universal Waste Ban have advanced the need to expand battery collection to all County offices and to look into environmentally sustainable alternatives for the future.

FISCAL IMPACT: Expanding the battery collection service to all County offices will cost an estimated \$8,000 for the first year and \$6,000 annually thereafter. This cost will be covered by existing funds.

REVIEWED BY:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Auditor-Controller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A
	<input type="checkbox"/>	County Counsel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A

Respectfully submitted,

Farhad Mansourian
Director