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- Sonoma County Water Agency
- Town of Windsor

DAVE RICHARDSON
Executive Director

300 Seminary Avenue
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 833-2553

September 15, 2008

California Integrated Waste Management Board
Attn: Household Hazardous Waste Grant Program
Financial Assistance Division, 9th Floor
P.O. Box 4025
Sacramento, CA 96812-4025

Subject: Letter of Support for EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR) BUSINESS AND EDUCATION OUTREACH PROGRAM

Sonoma County Waste Management Agency's 17th Cycle Household Hazardous Waste Grant Application

Dear Household Hazardous Waste Grant Review Committee;

The Russian River Water Association is pleased to submit this letter of support for the 17th Cycle Household Hazardous Waste Extended Producer Responsibility Business and Education Outreach Program proposed by the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency (SCWMA).

The Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA) is an association of nine local public agencies within the Russian River Watershed that have come together to coordinate regional programs for clean water, fisheries restoration and watershed enhancement. Board members include the Sonoma County Water Agency, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, elected officials and city staff. Priority projects are defined in an annual Work Plan.

This grant application which targets outreach education and voluntary business take-back for mercury-containing products, fluorescent light bulbs, CFLs and mercury thermostats, as well as medications compliments projects in our 2008-2009 Work Plan: Mercury Control/Pollution Prevention Program and the Regional Safe Medicine Disposal Coordination Project.

The Mercury Pollution Prevention Program started because several waterbodies within the Russian River watershed have been identified as being impaired for mercury under the Clean Water Act Section 303(d). Activities in SCWMA's grant proposal meet our objective of conducting outreach to inform the public of mercury disposal options.

The Regional Safe Medicine Disposal Coordination Project builds on the previous year's efforts to develop safe medicine disposal options within the watershed to address issues regarding water quality and pharmaceuticals in surface waters. Activities in SCWMA's grant proposal meet our objective to outreach to the community with a consistent message coordinated among SCWMA, RRWA, and other partners including the Sonoma County Water Agency and the City of Santa Rosa's "Regional Safe Medicine Disposal Program".

Over the past few years, RRWA has cultivated a successful working relationship with SCWMA staff on various outreach programs including a Mercury Thermometer Exchange Program and Used Oil Recycling Outreach. In addition, an Agency staff member regularly attends RRWA Working Group meetings.

If this grant proposal project is funded, the RRWA intends to promote Extended Producer Responsibility at one of our monthly Board meetings, through our Environmental Column newsletter and on our web site at www.rrwatershed.org.

Please contact me at (707) 833-2553 if you have any questions or comments.

Thank you,

Dave Richardson, Executive Director
Russian River Watershed Association, www.rrwatershed.org

Cc: RRWA Board of Directors
Karina Chilcott, SCWMA