

## MODEL RESOLUTION

FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE [CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ ]  
/ [SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS] ADOPTING ZERO  
WASTE AS A GOAL FOR THE [CITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ ] / [COUNTY OF  
SANTA CRUZ]

**1**WHEREAS, the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 required cities and counties to reduce, reuse and recycle (including composting) solid waste generated in the state to the maximum extent feasible before any incineration or landfill disposal of waste, to conserve water, energy and other natural resources, and to protect the environment ; and,

**2**WHEREAS, the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 mandated that California cities and counties divert 50% of all waste generated by the year 2000, but did not set any subsequent waste reduction goals and the cities and County of Santa Cruz have met the 2000 goal of 50% reduction in landfill disposal; and,

**3**WHEREAS, in the year 2002, residents of California disposed of close to 38 million tons of municipal solid waste - more than 5.8 pounds per person per day and residents of Santa Cruz County disposed of more than 220,000 tons of municipal solid waste - more than 4.7 pounds per person per day; and

**4**WHEREAS, though California reached an overall recycling rate of more than 48 percent in the year 2002, more can be done, especially in “closing the loop” by purchasing products made with recycled content; and

**5**WHEREAS, the placement of materials in waste disposal facilities, such as landfills and incinerators, wastes natural resources and wrongly transfers liabilities to future generations, while avoiding the creation of waste or discards in the first place is the most economically efficient and environmentally sustainable resource management strategy and supports a resource recovery-based economy that is more sustainable than a disposal-based economy; and,

**6**WHEREAS, with the appropriate economic incentives, manufacturers can and will produce and businesses will sell products that are durable and repairable and that can be safely recycled back into the marketplace or nature; and,

**7**WHEREAS, government is ultimately responsible for establishing criteria needed to eliminate waste, for creating the economic and regulatory environment in which to achieve it, and for leading by example; and,

**8**WHEREAS, while the diversion of materials from landfill disposal itself carries a cost, the cost of landfill disposal will continue to increase with no economic return; and,

**9**WHEREAS, efforts to achieve Zero Waste in Santa Cruz County should include:

1. a regional compost facility
2. construction and demolition waste recycling
3. increased commercial recycling
4. landfill bans of easily recyclable materials; and,

**10**WHEREAS, Zero Waste goals have already been adopted by the City of Santa Cruz and the County of Santa Cruz, but said goals do not include diversion milestones prior to goal achievement; and

**11**WHEREAS, Zero Waste is a philosophy and visionary goal that emulates natural cycles, where all outputs are simply an input for another process. It means designing and managing materials and products to conserve and recover all resources and not destroy or burn them, and eliminate discharges to land, water or air that do not contribute productively to natural systems or the economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the [City of \_\_\_\_\_ / County of Santa Cruz] hereby adopts Zero Waste as a long-term goal in order to eliminate waste and pollution in the manufacture, use, storage, and recycling of materials. This goal can be achieved through action plans and measures that significantly reduce waste and pollution. These measures will include encouraging residents, businesses and agencies to use, reuse, and recycle materials judiciously, in addition to encouraging manufacturers to produce and market less toxic and more durable, repairable, reusable, recycled, and recyclable products

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the [City of \_\_\_\_\_ / County of Santa Cruz] hereby establishes a milestone of 75% landfill diversion by the year 2010 towards the goal of Zero Waste; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the [City of \_\_\_\_\_ / County of Santa Cruz] hereby resolves to revisit the aforementioned milestone in the year 2010.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the \_\_\_\_\_, on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2005 by the following vote: