

**DATE: MAY 2, 2023**

**FROM: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ - APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ANNUAL APPLICATION SUBMITTALS TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES RECYCLING AND RECOVERY HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE GRANT PROGRAM**

**SUMMARY:**

Staff requests approval of the proposed resolution authorizing the submission of annual applications to the State of California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) for the Household Hazardous Waste Grant Program. If approved, the City of Los Angeles Harbor Department (Harbor Department) will apply for CalRecycle's grant every year for five years. The maximum award will be \$50,000 per year for a cumulative grant amount of \$250,000. If awarded, the funds will be used to offset the cost to host marine flare collection events throughout the Port of Los Angeles. This action is solely administrative in nature to reflect authorization to apply for CalRecycle's grant as part of the requirement of the grant application process. The Harbor Department will be financially responsible for the payment of any expenses incurred in excess of grant funds received.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Board of Harbor Commissioners (Board):

1. Find that the Director of Environmental Management has determined that the proposed action is administratively exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Article II Section 2(f) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines;
2. Approve the proposed resolution authorizing the submittal of annual applications for five years to the State of California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery for the Household Hazardous Waste Grant Program;
3. Authorize the Executive Director and the Board Secretary to execute and attest to said resolution for and on behalf of the Board; and
4. Adopt Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_.

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CALRECYCLING HAZARDOUS WASTE  
GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS**

**DISCUSSION:**

Background – As part of the Harbor Department Water Resources Action Plan (WRAP), the Harbor Department's Environmental Management Division (EMD) has implemented programs and initiatives such as the Clean Marina Program to reduce pollution from land and on-water sources. A potential source of pollution can arise from the use, storage, and disposal of marine pyrotechnic flares, otherwise known as marine flares, from recreational boaters. Marine flares are classified as explosive hazardous waste because of their toxic, reactive, and ignitable nature. The United States Coast Guard requires vessels longer than 16 feet in length to carry a minimum of three valid, non-expired marine flares on board for use as a visual distress signal. However, marine flares expire 36 to 42 months from the manufacture date, which creates a build-up of expired flares. Recreational vessels in California generate an estimated 174,000 flares each year. Unfortunately, no marine flare disposal facilities exist in California. This makes proper disposal expensive and inaccessible to California boaters, with many choosing to deploy flares illegally, toss them overboard, or stockpile expired marine flares, potentially impacting water quality or creating a safety hazard.

To combat these potential sources of pollution, EMD, in June 2021, piloted the first-ever marine flare collection event in Southern California at Cabrillo Way Marina in San Pedro, CA. The event collected a total of 1,466 individual flares from 52 participants equating to the removal of 492 pounds of explosive hazardous waste from Harbor Department marinas. Based on the results of the pilot event, it was determined that there is active interest in disposing of marine flares properly. In September 2022, a second marine flare collection event was held at Newmark's Yacht Centre in Wilmington, CA, which removed 440 pounds of explosive waste from the marinas.

Due to the explosive, hazardous nature of the marine flares and the out-of-state transportation for disposal, the cost to host marine flare collection events is more expensive than the average household hazardous waste collection events, impacting the financial feasibility of hosting these valuable events.

To assist local governments in implementing safe hazardous waste programs and events, CalRecycle now offers the Household Hazardous Waste Grant Program to fund up to \$50,000 in an annual grant cycle for the setup and operation of a temporary hazardous waste collection event with no required matching contribution. The Harbor Department intends to submit applications for the opportunity to receive funding to help supplement the cost of hosting marine flare collection events and to continue to provide this unique service to the boating community.

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**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CALRECYCLING HAZARDOUS WASTE GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS**

The proposed resolution is required by CalRecycle to apply for the grants (Transmittal 1). If approved, staff will apply for the CalRecycle Household Hazardous Waste Grant Program annually for five years. The maximum annual award is for a maximum of \$50,000 for a cumulative grant amount of \$250,000. The grant funds may be used for household hazardous waste public education and outreach, implementation of sustainable, extended producer responsibility collection opportunities, and projects to determine and implement the safest and most cost-effective methods for the collection of marine flares. The Harbor Department will not be subject to matching contribution for the acceptance of grant funds from CalRecycle.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:**

The proposed action is the approval of a submittal to the State of California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery for the Household Hazardous Waste Grant Program, which is an administrative activity. Therefore, the Director of Environmental Management has determined that the proposed action is administratively exempt from the requirements of CEQA in accordance with Article II, Section 2(f) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

This board action requests the approval of a resolution to authorize the submittal of applications to the State of California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery for the Household Hazardous Waste Grant Program.

The Harbor Department will be financially responsible for the payment of any expenses exceeding the amount of grant funds received in a given year. To the extent that Harbor Department funding is required, staff will request that funding will be included as part of the Harbor Department's annual budget process, subject to Board approval.

**CITY ATTORNEY:**

The Office of the City Attorney has reviewed and approved the proposed Resolution as to form and legality.

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**TRANSMITTAL:**

1. Resolution of the City of Los Angeles Harbor Department Authorizing Submittal of Applications for CalRecycle Household Hazardous Waste Grant Program

FIS Approval: MB  
CA Approval: SO



CHRISTOPHER CANNON  
Director of Environmental Management

*Michael DiBernardo*

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Deputy Executive Director

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FILE: Y:\\_ADMIN\\_BOARD REPORTS\\_WATER QUALITY\GRANT - CALRECYCLE\ENVIRONMENTAL\\_CALRECYCLE GRANT\\_BOARD REPORT - FINAL.docx  
UPDATED:5/2/2023 4:45 PM - MRX