AGENDA NO.

January 14, 2025

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH

Regulation of Household Hazardous Waste through Extended Producer Responsibility

The prevalence of hazardous waste pollution in our environment and its lasting negative impacts on our ecosystems and public health is alarming. To achieve waste and pollution reduction goals, this Board adopted the Los Angeles County Zero Waste Plan ("Zero Waste Plan"), which aligns closely with the Los Angeles County General Plan and Our County Sustainability Plan. The Zero Waste Plan includes several strategies to manage "Household Hazardous and Electronic Waste" (HHW/E-Waste) and further protect human health and the environment by maximizing diversion and enhancing HHW/E-Waste programs.

HHW/E-Waste is hazardous waste generated at a place of residence. Improperly placing HHW/E-Waste in curbside collection bins can potentially cause physical injury to those handling the material including sanitation workers. Disadvantaged and low-income communities are disproportionately impacted by the human health and environmental effects of improperly disposed hazardous waste.

The costs of properly managing HHW/E-Waste programs are increasing and current funding levels have become unsustainable to provide long-term collection, recycling, treatment, and disposal of hazardous waste. The annual cost of the temporary collection events has increased by approximately 80 percent to an estimated

$13.9 million, for fiscal year 2023-24.

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Consumers need convenient, safe, and cost-effective ways to properly dispose of HHW/E-Waste products. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is an important policy tool that makes producers or manufactures of a product responsible for managing the end-of-life for the products, including establishing and sustainably funding a convenient take back and recycling program. EPR programs also encourage product designs that minimize negative impact on human health and the environment at every stage of the product's lifecycle.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct Public Works in coordination with the Chief Sustainability Office, the Department of Public Health, County Counsel, and the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs, to report back in 120 days on the feasibility of creating an ordinance that would establish an EPR program for the safe, convenient, and sustainably-financed collection and take-back of HHW/E-Waste not covered by state legislation. The report back should also include the following:

a. HHW/E-Waste products that are not covered under existing State or Local legislation or ordinances.

b. Examples of enacted EPR legislation and local ordinances that have successful take-back programs; and

c. Recommendations on how an EPR take-back ordinance would be enforced and whether the County should consider an outright ban on certain HHW/E-Waste items from sale;

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Officer,

Legislative and Intergovernmental Relations, with the assistance of Public Works, to support legislation to establish a statewide Household Hazardous Waste Extended Producer Responsibility policy.

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