

PRESS RELEASE

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Greig Smith Council District 12



LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMAN GREIG SMITH

STATE RULE ON HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE WILL PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC HEALTH

Los Angeles – Today marks an important step toward protecting the environment and public health for the Northwest San Fernando Valley. California's Department of Toxic Substances Control has banned household items containing toxic substances from being thrown in the regular trash, including batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, and items containing mercury such as thermostats, thermometers, pilot light sensors, and electronic devices such as computers, televisions and some toys, and non-empty aerosol cans that contain hazardous materials.

Since household waste is currently landfilled at Sunshine Canyon in Granada Hills, getting these items out of the trash will prevent leaching of their toxic components into our air and groundwater. Previously, household trash was exempted from this ban.

City residents can take their old batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, old computers or other items to SAFE (Solvents, Automotive, Flammables and Electronics) drop-off centers operated by the Bureau of Sanitation where they can be safely processed and shipped to specialized hazardous waste facilities. In addition to the items mentioned, residents can bring any kind of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) such as old paint, motor oil, solvents, chemicals, pool chlorine jugs, etc.

The nearest SAFE center to residents of the Northwest San Fernando Valley is located at 11025 Randall Street in Sun Valley. It is open Saturday, Sunday, and Monday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. They do not operate in the rain, so check your weather guide or call ahead. For more information or directions, call 1-800-98-TOXIC (1-800-988-6942). For a list of all of the SAFE centers in Los Angeles, go to <http://www.lacity.org/san/safe.htm>.

If you are unable to bring your HHW to the SAFE center and are able to safely store the materials temporarily, you can bring it to the Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day I am co-sponsoring in partnership with California State University, Northridge and the City's Bureau of Sanitation. The event is on Saturday, April 22, from 9 am to 3 pm in CSUN Parking Lot F10, at Lassen St. and Lindley Ave. in Northridge. For more information on the event, call 1-800-98-TOXIC (1-800-988-6942) or go online to see the complete brochure for the event at <http://lacity.org/san/hhw-ewaste-northridge.htm>.

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