

## City of Colusa

### Policy on the Use of Rubberized Asphalt Concrete (RAC) for Road Construction and Resurfacing Projects

#### **Purpose:**

This policy establishes Rubberized Asphalt Concrete (RAC) as the default paving material for all new road construction and major resurfacing projects within the City of Colusa. By prioritizing the use of RAC, the City aims to reduce waste tire disposal, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and contribute to a sustainable infrastructure system.

#### **1. Environmental Focus:**

The City of Colusa is committed to minimizing waste tire disposal and reducing landfill waste by utilizing RAC, a material composed of recycled tire crumb rubber. The environmental benefits include:

- Reducing the volume of tires in landfills.
- Decreasing greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production and disposal of conventional asphalt materials.
- Supporting state and local efforts to enhance recycling and sustainability initiatives.

#### **2. Application Scope:**

RAC shall be the default paving material for most road construction and major resurfacing projects within the City. This policy applies to:

- Arterial roads and collector streets.
- Designated parking areas and public infrastructure projects.

Exceptions may be granted in cases where:

- Specific engineering or design requirements justify the use of an alternative material (e.g., high-traffic roads with significant wear and tear or special surface treatments).
- Cost-benefit analyses demonstrate that other materials would be more appropriate due to unique project conditions.

#### **3. Quality Standards:**

The City will ensure that all RAC used in projects meets or exceeds the following minimum standards:

- Crumb rubber content: Must meet or exceed state guidelines for RAC use.
- Binder properties: Must comply with industry standards and be suitable for local conditions. The RAC used in City projects must conform to all relevant state regulations and industry best practices to ensure durability, safety, and environmental performance.

#### **4. Cost Analysis:**

Although RAC may involve higher initial construction costs, the City recognizes the potential for

long-term savings due to the material's extended lifespan and reduced maintenance requirements. The City will:

- Conduct life cycle cost analyses for major projects to assess the overall economic benefits of RAC.
- Consider the use of RAC as a cost-effective solution over the lifespan of the infrastructure.

### **5. Implementation and Monitoring:**

To ensure the effective implementation of RAC, the following procedures will be followed:

- Project engineers will assess the suitability of RAC for each new project and identify potential challenges.
- The City will monitor and evaluate RAC performance regularly, ensuring compliance with quality standards and addressing any issues related to durability or environmental impact.

### **6. Collaboration with Suppliers:**

The City encourages partnerships with local suppliers of RAC to maintain consistent availability and competitive pricing. Local sourcing will support regional economic growth and contribute to the timely completion of projects.

### **7. Grant Programs:**

The City will explore opportunities to secure state and local grants to support the use of RAC in infrastructure projects. This may include grants from programs such as CalRecycle, which promotes recycling efforts and the use of recycled materials in public works.

### **8. Public Awareness:**

The City will conduct public outreach campaigns to raise awareness of RAC's environmental benefits. Informational materials will be developed to educate residents about the City's commitment to sustainability through the use of recycled materials in road construction.

### **9. Technical Expertise:**

City engineers and construction staff will receive the necessary training to design and implement RAC projects effectively. Training programs will focus on the technical aspects of RAC use, including proper design techniques, material handling, and quality control procedures.

This policy will be reviewed and updated periodically to reflect advancements in RAC technology and evolving environmental standards. The City of Colusa remains dedicated to promoting sustainable infrastructure practices that benefit both the environment and the community.