



For Immediate Release

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SAN CARLOS AND SAN MATEO SEEK INPUT ON COMMERCIAL RECYCLING *Meetings Being Held for Businesses on Potential Mandatory Commercial Recycling Ordinance*

SAN CARLOS, CA - January 6, 2010 - The Cities of San Carlos and San Mateo, with assistance from the South Bayside Waste Management Authority (SBWMA), are seeking input from businesses and other commercial property owners and managers on draft language for a possible mandatory commercial recycling ordinance. Several meetings are planned over the next few weeks in both San Carlos and San Mateo to garner input.

A mandatory commercial recycling ordinance may affect businesses, commercial and multifamily property owners/managers, non-profit organizations, public agencies and other entities that have commercial garbage accounts by requiring them to recycle at some level. The specifics for what the program will ultimately look like, or whether it will be initiated in San Carlos or San Mateo has yet to be determined.

The program was initiated by the SBWMA to assist its Member Agencies with developing tools and policies to meet their waste diversion and resource conservation goals. A pilot project was started last summer in San Carlos and San Mateo, which included conducting outreach to commercial customers and introducing the concept of mandatory commercial recycling. The upcoming meetings will provide additional opportunities for businesses to learn about mandatory commercial recycling and provide valuable input to the process.

The SBWMA and its Member Agencies are also considering a mandatory commercial recycling program as a result of the State of California's Global Warming Solutions Act (Assembly Bill 32), which requires jurisdictions to develop mandatory commercial recycling policies to reduce greenhouse gas emission linked to global climate change. It is anticipated that the State requirements will go into effect sometime this year.

"Approximately two-thirds of the garbage disposed in the SBWMA service area annually is directly attributable to the commercial sector," said Cliff Feldman, Recycling Programs Manager for the SBWMA, who is heading the project. "By developing policies now, before they are State-mandated, our Member Agencies can ensure that the requirements are tailored to meet their community's specific needs."

Other communities that have implemented similar ordinances include San Francisco, Sacramento, San Diego, Portland and Seattle, among others.

Meetings are being held on the following dates and locations, and businesses, property owners/managers and others who may be affected are encouraged to attend in order to be a part of the planning process and have their input considered.

San Carlos Meetings

- January 7, 8:30 – 9:30 am
San Carlos Library Community Rooms, 2nd Floor
610 Elm Street, San Carlos
- January 13, 12:00 – 1:00 pm
PG&E Auditorium
275 Industrial Way, San Carlos
- January 20, 8:30 – 9:30 am
San Carlos Library Community Rooms, 2nd Floor
610 Elm Street, San Carlos

San Mateo Meetings

- January 13, 8:30 – 9:30 am
San Mateo City Hall, Conference Room C
330 W. 20th Ave., San Mateo
- January 20, 12:00 – 1:00 pm
San Mateo City Hall, Conference Room C
330 W. 20th Ave., San Mateo

Reservations are encouraged to ensure seating availability, and can be made by email to tobills@rethinkwaste.org or calling (650) 802-3503 two days prior to the event. Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

Visit <http://www.rethinkwaste.org/businesses/mandatory-commercial-recycling> for additional information and updates on the program.

SBWMA

Formed in 1982, the SBWMA is a joint powers authority comprised of 12 member agencies (Atherton, Belmont, Burlingame, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, Redwood City, San Carlos, San Mateo, the County of San Mateo and the West Bay Sanitary District) in San Mateo County and is a leader in implementing innovative waste reduction and recycling programs. The SBWMA also owns and manages the Shoreway facility in San Carlos consisting of a permitted solid waste transfer station and a recycling processing facility. For more information on the SBWMA, please visit our website at www.RethinkWaste.org.

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