



# RethinkWaste.org

South Bayside Waste Management Authority

## Press Release

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For Further Information:

**Cliff Feldman, 650-802-3502 or [cfeldman@rethinkwaste.org](mailto:cfeldman@rethinkwaste.org)**

**Brian Moura, 650-802-4210 or [bmoura@cityofsancarlos.org](mailto:bmoura@cityofsancarlos.org)**

### **South Bayside Waste Management Authority Launches New Curbside Recycling Program in San Carlos for Household Batteries and Cell Phones**

**SAN CARLOS, CA – March 1, 2007** - South Bayside Waste Management Authority (SBWMA) today announced the launch of new curbside recycling program in San Carlos for household batteries and cell phones. Residents in San Carlos can set out household batteries (rechargeable and alkaline types, but no automotive batteries) in a clear plastic bag on top of their mixed paper recycling bin on recycling collection day. Cell phones can be wrapped in paper and placed inside the same clear plastic bag for batteries.

“This is an extremely innovative and timely new recycling service for San Carlos residents,” remarked Kevin McCarthy, Executive Director of the SBWMA. “With batteries and cell phones banned from trash disposal, residents have been struggling to find a convenient recycling option and now they have one.”

This new curbside recycling program is being funded by the SBWMA as it evaluates the success of the program and whether to expand the service throughout central and southern San Mateo County.

Brian Moura, Assistant City Manager for the City of San Carlos and a Board Member of the SBWMA said that “During the last year, the City of San Carlos has worked with San Mateo County on a small scale Household Battery and Cell Phone recycling program where residents can bring these items to containers at City Hall for recycling. The interest in this small program has shown us the value and potential of a broader, City-wide

program for Household Battery and Cell Phone recycling. We're excited about the opportunity to team with the SBWMA to bring this recycling program to the home of every resident in San Carlos."

Americans purchase nearly 3 billion dry-cell batteries every year to power radios, toys, cellular phones, watches, laptop computers, and portable power tools, and other home electronics. On average, each person in the United States discards eight dry-cell batteries per year. In California alone, there were 507,259,000 batteries sold in 2001, according to a California Integrated Waste Management Board. In addition, only 0.55% of these batteries were recycled.

### **About South Bayside Waste Management Authority (SBWMA)**

Formed in 1982, the SBWMA is a joint powers authority of twelve member agencies in central and southern San Mateo County (the cities of Atherton, Belmont, Burlingame, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, Redwood City, San Carlos and San Mateo along with the County of San Mateo and the West Bay Sanitary District) and is a leader in innovative recycling and waste-reduction programs. The primary goals of the SBWMA are to provide cost-effective waste reduction, recycling, and solid waste programs to member agencies through franchised services and other recyclers to meet and sustain a minimum 50% diversion mandated by California State Law, AB 939. Currently, Allied Waste of San Mateo County provides collection services for 91,000 residences and nearly 10,000 businesses under franchise contracts through December 31, 2010.

The SBWMA also owns and manages the Shoreway Recycling and Disposal Center (SRDC) in San Carlos consisting of a permitted 3000 ton per day solid waste transfer station and Material Recovery Facility (MRF). Allied Waste provides operations services under contract through December 31, 2010.

To learn more about the SBWMA please visit our web site at [www.RethinkWaste.org](http://www.RethinkWaste.org).

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