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**BELMONT APPROVES SHOREWAY FACILITY BOND FINANCING
SBWMA Has Two-Thirds Vote to Move Forward with Master Plan Improvements**

SAN CARLOS, CA - March 11, 2009 - Yesterday, the City of Belmont's City Council approved the issuance of \$65.5 million in new debt to finance the Shoreway Recycling and Disposal Center master plan improvements. The City of Belmont's approval was the eighth vote needed by the South Bayside Waste Management Authority (SBWMA), of which Belmont is a Member Agency, to meet its two-thirds approval requirement in order to issue the new debt to finance needed improvements in recycling and solid waste infrastructure.

The master plan improvements are needed to accommodate single stream recycling (commingled) and other new environmental programs that will be rolled out by January 1, 2011 to residents and businesses in the SBWMA service area. The new programs and facility improvements are designed to increase customer convenience, service and safety, while maximizing recycling efforts. It is anticipated that the Shoreway master plan improvements will result in roughly a 5% residential and commercial garbage rate increase, which translates into an increase of approximately \$0.99 per month for Belmont households based on current rates.

The Belmont City Council approval comes following rigorous review of the SBWMA's financial projections for the operations of the Shoreway facility and projected costs for the issuance of fixed and variable rate bonds. The City Council had previously discussed the item at its February 10, 2009 meeting.

An analysis of the net financial benefit (over 25 years) of the Shoreway master plan vs. maintaining the existing dual stream recycling processing at the facility, demonstrated that if recycling increases by 9% or more for the SBWMA, the financial benefits of the new facility outweigh the costs. The SBWMA is projecting a 30% increase in recycling with the new menu of services, which could result in more than \$53 million in net savings over the life of the bond.

"Belmont and the other Member Agencies who have voted in favor of the bond financing recognize the need for the Shoreway master plan and the great financial and environmental benefits that come with it," said SBWMA Chairwoman Martha DeBry. "Ultimately, this project is about making an investment now that will save the ratepayers money in the long term, create work that is much needed in this economy, assist with our environmental goals, and build a facility that is an asset for the region for decades into the future."

In addition to the City of Belmont, the cities of Menlo Park, Redwood City, San Mateo, Foster City, San Carlos and East Palo Alto, and the Town of Hillsborough have also approved issuing new debt. With the two-thirds approval requirement now met, the SBWMA will finalize the financing plan for the project for review and approval by its Member Agencies in the upcoming months.

The Shoreway facility, located in San Carlos, is owned by the SBWMA and serves as a central location for receiving, transferring and processing all garbage, recyclables, yard trimmings and food scraps materials collected from residents and businesses in the SBWMA service area. The existing transfer station was built in 1984 and the materials recovery facility building (MRF), where the recyclables are processed, was built in 1968.

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 Recycling and Disposal Center 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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