



For Immediate Release

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RETHINKWASTE CELEBRATES THE GRAND OPENING OF THE SHOREWAY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

Event Marks Completion of \$47 Million in Capital Improvements to the Facility

SAN CARLOS, CA – September 23, 2011 – RethinkWaste Board of Directors and staff, local and state officials, and community leaders will be gathering at the Shoreway Environmental Center in San Carlos on Tuesday, September 27, 2011 from 12 to 3 pm to celebrate the official grand opening of the new facility. The grand opening marks the transformation of the outdated Shoreway Recycling and Disposal Center into California’s Greenest Recycling Center and Transfer Station, with the most technologically advanced single stream processing equipment in the country.

The grand opening will include a formal program featuring guest speakers San Carlos Mayor Andy Klein, Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) Acting Director Mark Leary, and RethinkWaste officials. The grand opening will include tours of the facility, the unveiling of the new Environmental Education Center, as well as Recology San Mateo County staff wearing recycled fashion by Haute Trash.

“Hosting the new Shoreway Environmental Center in San Carlos fits perfectly with our community's environmental values. San Carlos continues to be a leader in Green Programs and Climate Protection Initiatives,” said San Carlos Mayor Andy Klein. “The newly expanded recycling services offered through the opening of the new center will benefit residents and businesses not only in San Carlos but in all 12 of the RethinkWaste Member Agencies. We're proud to be part of making that happen.”

The Shoreway Environmental Center encompasses a brand new 70,200-square-foot Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), where the recyclables from residents and businesses in the RethinkWaste service area are processed. The new MRF houses state-of-the-art processing equipment specifically designed to handle single stream recyclables (commingled bottles/cans/paper), and replaces the previously existing 48,000-square-foot building. The new MRF became fully operational in May 2011, and has the capacity to handle over 80,000 tons per year on one operating shift.

The master plan improvements also include a 14,780 square-foot expansion of the existing 62,000 square-foot transfer station building to increase unloading spaces for public customers and allow for a 30,000 ton-per-year increase in organic materials such as plant materials and food scraps collected from local residents and businesses.

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MEMBER AGENCIES: Town of Atherton • City of Belmont • City of Burlingame • City of East Palo Alto • City of Foster City • Town of Hillsborough
City of Menlo Park • City of Redwood City • City of San Carlos • City of San Mateo • County of San Mateo • West Bay Sanitary District

“Californians lead the nation in their commitment to sustainability. But it’s critical we have the facilities to accommodate that recycling commitment – to process what we divert for reuse every day,” said Mark Leary, CalRecycle Acting Director. “The Shoreway Environmental Center is a welcome addition to California’s campaign to turn our waste stream into a supply stream.”

The new Shoreway Environmental Center also includes a dedicated Environmental Education Center housed in the MRF building, featuring museum quality exhibits promoting resource conservation and RethinkWaste programs. The Environmental Education Center will also be unveiled for the first time at Tuesday’s event and will be available for tours for schools, community groups and the general public starting later this fall.

Other features of the Shoreway master plan include a new Public Recycling Center, for the free drop-off of materials for recycling, and a buy-back center for redeeming bottles and cans for their rebates. It also includes a new scale house and related traffic enhancements; and green building features such as the use of photovoltaic (solar) panels to generate renewable energy to power site operations, rainwater capture and reuse, translucent panels to maximize day lighting, use of native and low-water plants, among others.

“We are excited to unveil this new community asset that provides critical green infrastructure to support financially sustainable and environmentally sound programs for our service area of over 450,000 residents,” remarked Kevin McCarthy, Executive Director of RethinkWaste. “Our Environmental Education Center will also leave a lasting positive imprint in the community as we teach children the value of conserving our precious natural resources.”

RethinkWaste owns the Shoreway Environmental Center, which receives all of the residential and commercial recyclables, organic materials and solid waste collected in the service area by Recology San Mateo County. The facility is permitted to receive 3,000 tons per day, and is operated by South Bay Recycling (SBR) on the agency’s behalf. Construction began in November 2009 after approval and issuance of tax-exempt solid waste revenue enterprise bonds in September 2009 to fund the capital improvements.

The master plan improvements were initiated to handle the increased volume and types of materials collected through the residential CartSMART and commercial BizSMART Recycle, Compost and Garbage collection services launched in January of this year. Since the launch, residential recycle and compost tons collected have both increased by 30% while garbage has decreased by 19%.

RethinkWaste

Formed in 1982, RethinkWaste 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 Agency’s legal name is the South Bayside Waste Management Authority (SBWMA.) For more information on RethinkWaste, please visit our website at www.RethinkWaste.org.

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