



For Immediate Release

For Further Information:
Monica Devincenzi, RethinkWaste
Phone: 650-802-3509
Email: mdevincenzi@rethinkwaste.org

SHOREWAY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER GRAND OPENING A SUCCESS
Event Celebrated Completion of \$47 Million in Capital Improvements to the Facility

SAN CARLOS, CA – September 30, 2011 – Over 150 attendees, including RethinkWaste Board of Directors and staff, local and state officials, and community leaders gathered at the Shoreway Environmental Center in San Carlos on Tuesday, September 27, 2011 to celebrate the official grand opening of the new facility. The grand opening marked the transformation of the outdated Shoreway Recycling and Disposal Center into California’s Greenest Recycling Center and Transfer Station, with the most technologically advanced single stream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 included 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 also included 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.

The Shoreway Environmental Center encompasses the following significant improvements:

- 70,200-square-foot new 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.
- 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.
- New Environmental Education Center housed in the MRF building, featuring museum quality exhibits promoting resource conservation and RethinkWaste programs. The Environmental Education Center will be available for tours for schools, community groups and the general public starting later this fall.

610 Elm Street, Suite 202 | P: 650-802-3500 | RethinkWaste.org
San Carlos, CA 94070 | F: 650-802-3501

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

- 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.
- New scale house and related traffic enhancements.
- 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.

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 Shoreway 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.

###