



For Immediate Release

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**4-Alarm Fire at Shoreway Environmental Center’s Recycling Facility in San Carlos
Site is open for “business as usual” for the public despite serious damage to equipment.
No Facility workers were injured in this incident**

SAN CARLOS, CA –September 8, 2016

Last night’s 4-alarm blaze at the Shoreway Environmental Center’s recycling facility resulted in significant damage to its processing line equipment that will require extensive repairs which are estimated to take four to six months to complete. This building handles the processing of over 400 tons of various grades of paper, bottles and cans every day, 260 days per year.

When asked to comment, Rethink Waste’s Executive Director, Joe La Mariana, emphatically stated “our top priority is always worker safety. The site management and staff must be commended for their textbook execution of the facility’s emergency evacuation procedures. Equipment and building can always be repaired and replaced. Our friends and colleagues cannot!”.

The site’s transfer station – which receives garbage, organics and construction & demolition materials – and all other related operations based on this is 16-acre site is open for “business as usual” to responsibly serve the public’s solid waste needs.

None of Recology’s standard collection operations for garbage, recycling or organics is expected to be affected as a result of this unfortunate incident.

Senior managers and staff from Recology, South Bay Recycling, and Rethink Waste (also known as the South Bayside Waste Management Authority) are working in a highly-collaborative effort to utilize all available alternative options to process these materials during this transitional period. All recycling materials will be processed accordingly. Absolutely no recycling materials will be landfilled.

Significant fire and fire suppression water damage was sustained to the facility. Structural engineering inspections to the affected building, as well as equipment and operating system replacement assessments are being conducted during the next few days to establish the full scope of damage. When safe and practical, the facility workers will assist in a variety of cleanup activities to help mitigate the economic impacts of this unfortunate incident to their households.

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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

All public and school tours are postponed until all safety measures are back in place when the facility is fully permitted to come back on line. Periodic updates will be provided.

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RethinkWaste

RethinkWaste is a joint powers authority of twelve public 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, California and is a leader in the delivery of innovative waste reduction and recycling programs. RethinkWaste owns and manages the award-winning Shoreway Environmental Center which receives all the recyclables, organic materials, and materials (i.e. solid waste) collected in its service area. RethinkWaste's environmental education and tour program has also received state and national awards and hosts nearly six thousand visitors per year. RethinkWaste also provides strategic oversight, support and management of service providers that collect, process, recycle and dispose of materials for its Member Agencies. RethinkWaste (i.e., South Bayside Waste Management Authority) was formed in 1982. For more information on RethinkWaste, please visit our website at www.RethinkWaste.org or follow us at www.Facebook.com/rethinkwaste or www.Twitter.com/rethinkwaste.

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