

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## **Recycling is Key**

Each Tehama County resident has a direct impact on the health and vitality of our community. Rethinking what is placed in the trash ensures a valuable community resource, the Tehama County/Red Bluff Sanitary Landfill, can be available for generations to come.

Landfills have a limited lifespan based on capacity. At the end of active life, when the landfill has reached its permitted capacity, it is deemed inactive and unable to receive waste material. This status doesn't simply mean 'out-of-business' and walk away. Quite the contrary. Post-closure management is required to ensure the landfill causes no harm to the environment for years to come. Extensive air, surface and groundwater monitoring of the site are required for at least 30 years or until the landfill no longer poses a threat.

These long-term monitoring requirements come at a cost. It will cost millions of dollars to close and monitor both phases of the Tehama County/Red Bluff Landfill. While the first phase of the Tehama County/Red Bluff Landfill is set to close in 5 years, the second phase has at least 25 years of capacity after the first phase closes. This is good news because the longer the landfill remains open, the greater the opportunity to gain revenue and interest income to assist in covering the closure and monitoring costs. Also, jurisdictions that do not operate a local landfill typically have much higher disposal costs because of fuel costs associated with long transportation distances. Advances in technology and waste reduction and recycling efforts will eventually result in waste no longer needing to be landfilled.

Recycling and waste reduction extend the life of the landfill. Waste reduction and recycling are long-term cost savings strategies. Recycling is clearly a favorable practice when considering the true cost of most products over its entire lifecycle; from harvesting the raw materials to creating, consuming, and disposing of it. Instead of virgin material to make products, using recycled materials reduces waste, pollution, and energy use. Recyclable material, if separated from the trash, is destined for at least a second life as a new product. It is important to note, while some materials such as cardboard, paper, metal and some plastics have a recoverable market value, other products do not. It is, however, still important to divert those items from landfills. For example, the market value of metal, textiles and wood does not fully cover the cost to recycle mattresses and other difficult to recycle items. This is because it takes a lot of time to deconstruct a mattress. Despite this, it is still better to recycle a mattress than to landfill it.

Recycling fuels a remanufacturing industry. Refurbishing materials and/or creating new products from recycled material are key elements in creating new development opportunities here in California. According to Californian's Against Waste, recycling results in up to 36 times more jobs than landfilling. When garbage is landfilled, the materials are collected and 'put in the grave' without any opportunity for continued economic activity.

The Tehama County/Red Bluff Sanitary Landfill and Recycling Facility is a valuable resource for the community. So much so, that it is important to prolong its lifespan. One way to conserve the landfill is to recycle. Participating in recycling also supports job creation, conserves virgin materials, reduces pollution and reduces the demand for energy use. The long-term benefits of waste reduction and recycling positively affect the community, the environment and the economy. If you are interested in

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receiving a monthly recycling newsletter e-blast, or volunteering with the Tehama County/Red Bluff Sanitary Landfill Agency, please email: [recycle@clearwire.net](mailto:recycle@clearwire.net). or contact Kristina Miller at 528-1103.