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County of San Mateo recognized for recycling programs

The County was honored with two awards for innovative and collaborative programs that promote waste reduction at the recent California Resource Recovery Association (CRRRA) conference in San Jose.

An award for Innovative Electronics Program was given to Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS), RecycleWorks and Goodwill Industries. These three agencies worked together to plan the Electronics Reuse and Recycling Program, secure funding for startup costs, and beginning operations. The program established a permanent collection and distribution system for reusing and recycling electronic equipment while providing transitional job training opportunities to individuals with multiple barriers to employment. Since its inception less than a year ago, the program has diverted 1200 tons of electronics from disposal and created 18 job training positions for San Mateo County residents.

The County of San Mateo RecycleWorks program was also recognized as part of a collaborative effort on the part of Bay Area Counties that have worked together to provide a waste reduction campaign for ten years. The most recent campaign, which focused on reducing junk mail, produced 94 calls and 6900 website hits a day. RecycleWorks, along with the recycling programs of San Francisco, Alameda, Santa Clara, Contra Costa and Marin received an award for Innovative Waste Prevention.

Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson remarked, "I am pleased to see these collaborative and innovative programs honored. Both programs were developed to solve problems that are best served through cooperative efforts and have proven success."

Computers and other electronics can be dropped off at any Goodwill drop-off location in San Mateo County.

Residents and businesses in San Mateo County can receive a free Reduce Junkmail Kit by calling the RecycleWorks hotline at 1-888-442-2666 or visiting www.RecycleWorks.org.