

THE WASTE WATCHER

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Paul Relis Resigns From Waste Board Post Held Since 1991

Paul M. Relis, one of the longest-standing appointees to the California Integrated Waste Management Board and its environmental member, resigned January 31 from the post he held for more than six years in order to pursue other opportunities closer to home.

In August 1991 Governor Pete Wilson appointed Relis to serve on the Board, which had been created the previous year following the passage of the AB 939, the Integrated Waste Management Act.

During most of his tenure, Relis chaired the Board's Market Development Committee and served on its Permitting and Enforcement Committee and Policy, Research, and Technical Assistance Committee. He was also a member of the Local Assistance and Planning Committee during the early 1990s.

Relis, the driving force behind the Board's first Market Development Plan, emphasized building a comprehensive program to help California businesses reprocess and reuse recyclable materials.

He also spearheaded the Board's efforts to demonstrate to California agriculture how compost and mulch can be used to rebuild soils and reduce environmental impacts associated with farming.

Prior to coming to the Board, Relis was president of the Community Environmental Council in Santa Barbara where he helped develop Santa Barbara's recycling and hazardous waste programs during the 1980s.

Previously, as a member of the Senate Task Force on Hazardous Waste during the 1980s, he assisted in the development of a waste management strategy for California that contributed to the formulation of the Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989.

Bay Area Firm Diverts Plastics; RMDZ Loans Reach \$25 Million Mark

Thanks to a \$1 million loan from the Waste Board, a plastics recycling company has set up shop in a new 50,000-square-foot facility in Richmond. The loan was one of several the Waste Board has provided to businesses in California since 1993 through its Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ) program, now at the \$25 million mark.

MBA Polymer, Incorporated's, recent move from its Berkeley offices will give durable plastics a new lease on life in the Alameda-Contra Costa County area. The company will use the Waste Board loan to process used automobile dashboards, computer casings, and other high-grade plastics that historically have been dumped in landfills.

The company has used the loan to install high-tech equipment that identifies different grades of plastic materials in a fraction of the time normally required. The separated material is then ground into new plastic material for reuse.

Despite their reusable value, most durable plastic materials are thrown away because the technology to economically grind and segregate the different types of plastics in a single product has not been available. Using a state-of-the-art scan-



ner it developed and existing equipment, MBA will divert nearly 19,000 tons of plastics from area landfills annually by the year 2000.

Since 1993, a total of \$25 million in Waste Board recycling loans have helped businesses like MBA throughout the state reduce and recycle waste, diverting thousands of tons of garbage from landfills.

Waste Board RMDZ loans are funded from money set aside to help finance recycling and waste reduction operations within the geographic boundaries of 40 separate zones around the state. They feature fixed, low-interest rates for up to 10 years amounting to half the cost of a project, up to a maximum loan of \$1 million. The money can be used to purchase machinery, equipment, or land, or as working capital.

Waste Board Fines Jurisdictions for Not Meeting AB939 Planning Requirements

Reiterating the State's commitment to cutting California's trash in half by 2000, the Waste Board in January assessed a total of \$47,700 in fines against three local governments for failing to submit plans outlining how each intended to meet mandates of the State's 1989 waste diversion law. It was the first time the Board fined cities or counties for failing to comply with the Integrated Waste Management Act.

After separate public hearings on January 29, the cities of Guadalupe and Santa Fe Springs and Mariposa County were ordered to pay fines rang-

ing from \$2,200 to \$43,000.

"Since 1990, the Waste Board has taken the position that we want to work with cities and counties to achieve the State's waste diversion goals, and that is still our philosophy," said Board Chairman Daniel G. Pennington. "Unfortunately, while most California communities have developed and submitted plans on how they can keep 50 percent of their solid waste out of landfills by 2000 — and, more importantly, are implementing programs to reach that goal — some jurisdictions have not complied.

Governor, Assembly Speaker Make Appointments to Waste Board



Speaker Appointee Dan Eaton Sworn Into New Post

Dan Eaton was officially sworn in February 20 as a Member of the Waste Board, the newest Board Member for an agency dedicated to reducing waste in California.

"It is a pleasure to welcome Dan Eaton to the Board," said Waste Board Chairman Daniel G. Pennington. "His legislative background and familiarity with waste management issues are sure to be an asset in our efforts to cut California's trash in half by the year 2000."

Eaton is a UCLA and Loyola Law School graduate who served as Chief of Staff to former speaker Cruz B. Bustamante who appointed Eaton to a 4-year term shortly before he stepped down from the speakership.

Active in California government and politics since the 1970s, Eaton has demonstrated an ability to work within the State legislative and budget process to transform public policy goals into tangible results. As a member of the California Bar and formerly a practicing lawyer in Los Angeles, he specialized in trial work. Eaton served on the staffs of Assembly members Gwen Moore and Richard Katz and was deputy director of the Speaker's Office of Majority Services under Assembly Speaker Willie Brown.

Eaton replaces Janet Gotch, who was appointed by former Assembly Speaker Willie Brown in November 1994.

John Amodio Appointed Environmental Member

John J. Amodio, the former Assistant Secretary for Ecosystem Management at the State Resources Agency, was appointed by Governor Pete Wilson and sworn in April 8 as the newest member of the Waste Board. Amodio will serve as the Board's representative to the environmental community.

"I would like to welcome John Amodio to the Board," said Waste Board Chairman Daniel G. Pennington. "His extensive experience over the past 15 years working with a variety of environmental organizations will be invaluable in helping guide the Board toward reducing solid waste disposal in California."

Prior to serving at the Resources Agency, Amodio, 48, served as executive officer of the Bay Delta Oversight Council from 1993 to 1995 and as deputy director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research from 1991 to 1992.

A 1981 graduate of Humboldt State University, Amodio has served as executive officer of several environmental organizations including the Smith River Alliance, Jackson Hole Land Trust, Tuolumne River Preservation, the Trinity Wilderness Coalition, and the Northcoast Environmental Center. He has also served as the Northern California Representative for the Sierra Club.

Amodio replaces Paul Relis, who resigned from the Board in January.

The Waste Board comprises six members. In addition to the environmental appointment, the Governor appoints one member to represent the solid waste industry and two other members to represent the public. The Senate Rules Committee and the Speaker of the Assembly each appoint one public representative.



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"There is absolutely no reason why these jurisdictions should trail behind while the rest of the state continues to work hard implementing comprehensive recycling and waste reduction programs that have already helped California reach 30 percent waste diversion."

AB 939, the 1989 bill that established increased recycling as a top State priority, called for the state to divert 25 percent of its waste from landfills by 1995 and 50 percent by the year 2000. Jurisdictions that fail to achieve these goals are subject to possible enforcement action as well.

As part of its planning requirement, AB 939 requires all jurisdictions to submit waste plans — known as source reduction and recycling elements — that establish baseline figures and outline the new or existing programs the city or county will use to reach the diversion requirements.

"Without these plans in hand there is no way for the State to determine if the jurisdiction is prepared for and heading in the right direction toward meeting the diversion goals," Pennington said.

After careful deliberation of each case, the Board took the following actions:

- Fined Guadalupe \$7,200 for failing to submit its plan by December 31, 1994, as required, but forgave \$5,000 of that amount if the city's completed waste management plan is submitted within 31 days. The Board forgave the \$5,000 because of city staffing problems and because its only remaining step before submitting its plan is to finish a legally required public notice period. In late March, Guadalupe submitted its complete plan and paid the full \$2,200.
- Fined Santa Fe Springs \$43,000 for failing to resubmit a plan that the Board had previously disapproved and sent back for revisions. Also in late March, Santa Fe Springs submitted its complete plan and paid its full \$43,000 fine.
- Fined Mariposa County \$21,000, but forgave all but \$2,500 for failing to submit its plan to the Waste Board in time. The Board forgave \$18,500 because the county has provided a complete plan, but let the remainder of the fine stand because the plan was submitted late.

The Board also fined the tiny city of Point Arena \$1,740, but heeded the city's plea for "mercy" and forgave all of it because the town had submitted a complete plan and has no permanent waste management staff, only volunteers.

AB 939 allows the Board to levy fines as high as \$10,000 per day from the time each jurisdiction's plan was due, but the Board exercised its discretion and levied fines ranging from \$20 to \$737 per day. The fines were assessed from December 1, 1997, when each jurisdiction was notified of January's scheduled hearing.

\$7.8 Million to Locals for Increased Used Oil Collection, Recycling

More than \$7.8 million in Waste Board grants to cities and counties around the state were approved in March to help collect and recycle used motor oil.

"Used oil is the single largest hazardous waste generated in California," said Waste Board Chairman Daniel G. Pennington. "An estimated 25 million gallons of used motor oil are unaccounted for each year, much of which is poured onto the ground, down storm drains, or dumped into landfills."

A single gallon of motor oil illegally poured down a storm drain has the potential to contaminate 1 million gallons of water. Oil collection centers provide motorists who change their vehicles' oil convenient locations to dispose of the lubricants, if their communities do not offer curbside or similar collection services.

The Waste Board approved 30 separate Used Oil Opportunity Grants worth \$7,890,003. The money will go to a number of city and county agencies to establish or expand used oil collection and recycling programs in their regions. These programs include public education and outreach efforts on the proper management of used oil, recovery services for marinas, multifamily housing units, and agricultural areas.

The money is available through the Waste Board's Used Oil Recycling Fund, which is paid from a \$.16 fee on each gallon of motor oil sold in California. The fee is authorized by the California Oil Recycling Enhancement Act to discourage illegal oil disposal in California. The account raises approximately \$20 million each year.

The largest single allocation of money — \$1,299,988 — will go to the Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority to pay for used oil outreach programs, oil collection centers, school educational campaigns, and to host used oil forums in Alpine, Colusa, Glenn, Inyo, Lake, Lassen, Mariposa, Modoc, Plumas, Sierra, Siskiyou, and Trinity counties.

For a complete listing of all the grant recipients, contact the Waste Board's Office of Public Affairs and ask to receive a copy of press release #98-011 or go on-line at www.ciwmb.ca.gov/gr/opa/press_re/default.htm.



Illegal Dump Cleanups Continue

A total of \$755,000 in funds to eliminate unlawful accumulations of trash and debris in Lake, Tuolumne, and Sacramento counties have been approved by the Waste Board since January.

Most of the Waste Board money — \$550,000 approved in January — will be used to clean up eight separate properties in Rio Linda in northern Sacramento County. The waste includes municipal waste, furniture, tires, and gasoline tanks.

In March the Board approved another \$185,000 to be used in Lake County, where an estimated 1,725 cubic yards of trash has collected on rural acreage. The remaining \$20,000 will go to Tuolumne County as a grant to help the nonprofit "Citizens Acting Responsibly for the Environment (C.A.R.E.) for Tuolumne" group identify and eliminate cases of unlawful dumping in the county over

the next two years.

One of two Lake County dumps targeted is located on five forested acres near a groundwater well in Kelseyville. Among the items illegally dumped are 1,000 pairs of old shoes, 100 tires, and 50 abandoned vehicles. The other Lake County site, in the community of Whispering Pines, is home to a derelict vacation lodge and collection of cabins that sit on two acres of trash nearly 12 inches deep.

Since 1994, the Board's Solid Waste Cleanup Program has approved 81 sites throughout California for work and remediated 60 of them. Eighteen sites are currently being worked on and three sites have been removed from consideration for various reasons.

Southern California Waste Tires to Be Removed

The Waste Board will pay up to \$403,000 to help remove 158,000 waste tires from seven illegal sites scattered around Imperial, Kern, and San Bernardino counties, and Riverside County where an estimated 100,000 tires rest dangerously on private property.

"The public health and environmental safety threats waste tires pose when they are illegally dumped off roadways and on to people's properties are challenges the Waste Board will meet," said Waste Board Chairman Daniel G. Pennington. "As California strives to reach a 50 percent diversion rate in 2000, the illegal disposal of waste tires represents lost opportunities to recycle and the jobs recycling can help create."

• Board Approves Funds for Alternative Tire Uses
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By law, landowners or parties whose actions allow or cause the collection of illegal tire piles to occur are supposed to clean up such sites.

However, the Waste Board will step forward to protect the public and environment by removing the tires when the responsible parties are unable or unwilling to fix the problem. Whenever possible, the Waste Board seeks to recover its costs once cleanup operations are completed.

Waste Tire Reuse Funds Approved

Funds Approved for Rubberized Asphalt Research Center

A \$500,000 allotment from the Waste Board to the Los Angeles County Rubberized Asphalt Concrete Technology Center (RACTC) will help keep the center operating for another two years, providing local governments with new uses for old tires while keeping them out of landfills.

"We are committed to finding beneficial, safe ways for communities to use the 30 million tires thrown away each year in the state," said Waste Board Chairman Daniel G. Pennington. "The reuse of old tires in California roadways represents an opportunity to serve the public by eliminating potentially dangerous stockpiles of waste tires and maintaining public streets."

At its March meeting, the Waste Board approved funding Los Angeles County to run the statewide technology center with a second consecutive \$500,000 fiscal year allotment, citing the facility's value to local governments interested in using rubberized asphalt concrete (RAC) in public roadways. The half-million dollar boost will help the center stay open through June 30, 2000. The Waste Board awarded the county the same amount in FY 1996-97 to help start the center's operations.

If the application of RAC to repave California's highways becomes widespread, it has the potential to recycle up to 20 percent of the 30 million old tires thrown away annually. Waste tires have been successfully reused in California as acoustic filling in sound walls and in highway crash barriers; and have been retreaded, exported, and made into crumb rubber products such as playground safety mats, floor tiles, and carpet underlay. Moreover, waste tires have been safely combusted in California to generate electrical power and as a fuel supplement, in place of coal, in manufacturing cement.

Local governmental agencies are the largest users of RAC in public paving projects and represent the biggest market growth segment for the product. Since opening in 1997, the center has become a one-stop technical and educational clearinghouse for local governmental agencies curious about using RAC in public paving projects. Jurisdictions' unfamiliarity with the product, its proper method of application, appropriate usage, and relevant cost benefits have been the most sig-

nificant stumbling blocks to increased local government use of RAC, despite the glut of waste tires in landfills and illegal dumpsites around the state.

Over the past nine months, the center has established a toll-free telephone number — 888-777-4775 — to answer questions about the use of RAC, set up an Internet site, and produced and distributed publications about its services.

The RACTC plans to use \$150,000 of the funds to reimburse local government agencies that have constructed no more than three RAC projects in the past five years for performing pavement tests to determine if the proposed project is suitable for using RAC. Testing costs will be reimbursed by the RACTC up to \$5,000.

The center will use \$200,000 to reimburse local government agencies to perform product quality inspections of RACTC-approved projects. Reimbursement will be made at a rate of one dollar per ton of RAC used in a project, not to exceed \$10,000.

The remaining \$150,000 will be used by the RACTC to staff and administer its operation.

Playground Safety Mats Funded by State

Playground safety mats made from old tires will be installed at more schools and parks around the state thanks to \$300,000 in grants from the Waste Board. The grants were awarded in March to 20 parks departments and school districts throughout the state.

"These mats make playgrounds safer because of their ability to absorb shock without injuring the child," said Waste Board Chairman Daniel G. Pennington. "Funding such projects also helps California reduce its number of waste tire piles, many of which illegally litter the countryside and are potential public health and environmental problems."

The Waste Board awarded the grants in March as a way to promote recycling opportunities for the estimated 30 million waste tires that are generated in California annually, as well as another 30 million tires currently stockpiled legally — and illegally — around the state.

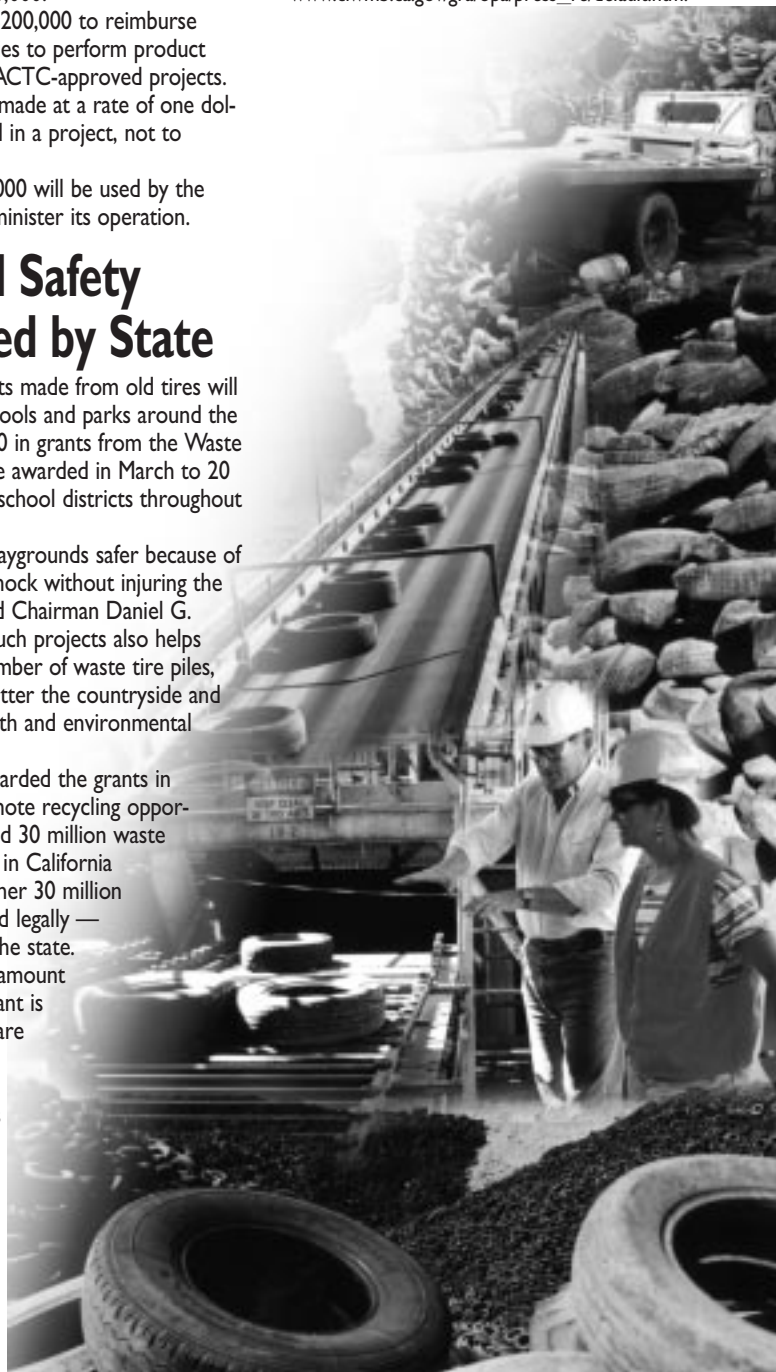
The maximum grant amount available for each applicant is \$25,000 and applicants are required to provide at least 50 percent of the total project cost. Mats and all surfacing are to be manufactured from California tire rubber only. The financing program helps promote viable markets for waste tires and assists communities in providing access to

playgrounds for the handicapped as required by the American with Disabilities Act.

Several school and park districts throughout California already use playground rubber safety mats. In many playgrounds, the mats replace hard dirt or concrete surfaces, making the sites substantially safer for thousands of children.

The Waste Board money will be used to pay for site preparation, materials, installation of mats, and surfacing work at playgrounds. The \$300,000 grant will be awarded to 20 agencies. For a complete listing of the grant recipients, contact the Waste Board's Office of Public Affairs and request a copy of press release #98-010 or go on-line at

www.ciwm.ca.gov/gra/opa/press_re/default.htm.



Cleanup Underway at One of State's Largest Illegal Tire Piles in San Luis Obispo



After months of negotiation, a final agreement was signed in late December and work began in January to send the illegally stockpiled tires on San Luis Obispo County Supervisor Ruth Brackett's property to the Chicago Grade Landfill in Atascadero, where they will be shredded and used as daily cover.

"I'm pleased to announce that work has begun to clean up one of the largest tire piles in California," said Waste Board Chairman Daniel G. Pennington. "Cleanup of this pile has been a long, frustrating time coming, but I'm pleased that we've reached an agreement that is suitable for the Bracketts, Chicago Grade, and the desire of the State to eliminate this serious environmental threat."

The Waste Board estimates that there are approximately 1 million tires on site. Under the

agreement, Chicago Grade is to remove at least 15,000 tires each week over the course of the next 18 months, totaling 1 million tires. If there are more than 1 million tires, the State will determine whether or not to continue the cleanup project with Chicago Grade.

The project involves removing the tires and shredding them before they are shipped to Chicago Grade where they will serve a beneficial end use as alternative daily cover (ADC). Because of the variables involved in using the tires as ADC — such as weather, size of shredded tires, and available storage space at the landfill — the Waste Board allowed Chicago Grade some flexibility by allowing the company up to 18 months to remove the tires.

All landfill operators in California are required to cover disposed solid waste at the end of each

working day, to control animals and insects, fires, odors, blowing litter, and scavenging. The cover can be either earthen material or ADC, such as the tire shreds that will be used at Chicago Grade.

The cost of the cleanup, estimated at approximately \$450,000 for 1 million tires, will come from the State's Tire Recycling Cleanup Fund, an account funded by the 25-cent-per-tire fee paid when consumers buy tires in California. A portion of the cost will be covered by the requirement that the Bracketts turn over the property to Chicago Grade once the site is cleaned.

Because of the ability to work out an agreement with the local landfill, overall cleanup costs of 45 cents per tire will be much lower than usual Board-funded tire site cleanups. The average cost of recent cleanups of other, smaller tire piles is approximately \$1.30 per tire.

Since May 1995 the Waste Board has issued numerous warning letters to the Bracketts and two cleanup and abatement orders, but no tires were removed. Negotiations to determine how to eliminate the tire pile then stalled over the Bracketts' refusal to clear and allow access to the site. This matter was not resolved until early October, after the Attorney General's office filed an injunction ordering the Bracketts to grant access. Four days prior to a scheduled court hearing on the matter, the Bracketts consented to access and negotiations resumed.

The tire pile problem began in 1989 when the Bracketts signed a five-year lease with the late Bud Steers and allowed him to operate a tire collection and recycling businesses at the site. Tires were collected in the hope of selling them to the now-defunct Rialto Power Plant in Southern California. Steers eventually abandoned the site in 1991, leaving behind the stockpile.

Plastic Recycling Rate Falls Below Standards

The percentage of plastic recycled in 1996 fell below State minimum standards, the Waste Board has determined.

In January, the Board found that the recycling rate for all plastic containers covered under the law — packaging for such products as soft drinks, milk, and laundry detergent — was 23.2 percent in 1996, falling just under the minimum standard of 25 percent. The Board also determined that the recycling rate for polyethylene terephthalate (PETE), the plastic used in soda bottles, was 35.9 percent.

"Although I understand that the recycled plastics market is depressed, and that prices for recycled

plastic have been cut in half in the last two years, the fact remains that the recycling rate is below the minimum required by law," said Board Chairman Daniel G. Pennington. "This Board has worked very hard to stimulate the plastics markets over the past few years, and we must look even harder to help these fledgling markets stabilize."

Because the recycling rate does not meet the minimum standard, the Board, at its March meeting, directed staff to send certification forms to selected manufacturers of RPPC containers to determine the level of compliance with the law, based on four separate compliance options. In

August or September the Board is expected to report its findings and evaluate enforcement and/or penalty options.

The Waste Board has long understood that simply mandating recycling will not help California reach its goal of cutting solid waste in half by 2000. Instead, Pennington said, sustainable private sector markets must be encouraged and facilitated so that recyclable materials will be seen as commodities, not trash.

In 1995, the PETE recycling rate was 38.8 percent, while the all-container rate was determined to be in a range of 23.3 percent to 25.9 percent.

'97 Waste Reduction Leaders Recognized



Recognizing their extraordinary efforts to reduce waste in the business sector, the Waste Board has selected 10 California businesses as tops in waste reduction for having implemented practices that have saved millions of dollars in disposal costs by keeping millions of pounds of waste out of landfills.

The 1997 "WRAP of the Year" winners for the Board's Waste Reduction Awards Program (WRAP) are:

- Fetzer Vineyards, Mendocino County
- Hewlett Packard, Cupertino
- Hillside Press, Rolling Hills Estate
- Imation Corp., Camarillo
- Pepsi Cola, Fresno
- Plaza Camino Real, Carlsbad
- San Francisco Hilton and Towers
- Sea World, San Diego
- St. Bernardine Medical Center, San Bernardino
- Warner Bros., Burbank

Combined, these businesses kept more than 25 million pounds of waste out of landfills and saved themselves more than \$1 million in disposal costs.

The 10 "WRAP of the Year" winners were picked from 278 businesses that recognizing the Waste Board's annual WRAP award. Recognizing that the business sector generates more than half of the

state's waste, the purpose of the WRAP is to recognize companies that develop creative and aggressive programs to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills.

The following are accomplishments of three of the "WRAP of the Year" winners.

The **Fetzer Vineyards** Winery, in the Mendocino County town of Hopland, composts 10,000 tons of grape seeds annually and recycles nearly 14 tons of shrink wrap. The vineyard features recycled wood and doors, and the lawns are grasscycled with mulching lawnmowers, thus returning grass clippings back to the soil where they provide valuable nutrients.

Ongoing education of waste reduction practices is always important and the **Pepsi Cola** plant in Fresno is leading the way in educating its employees. Along with recycling nearly 30 tons per month of pallets, cardboard, plastic, and shrink wrap, employees of the plant demonstrate and train recycling coordinators from other Pepsi plants about proper recycling techniques and proper use of recycling equipment. Manufacturers of recycling equipment have also studied Pepsi's process in order to improve equipment features.

At the **San Francisco Hilton and Towers**, 50,000 pounds of waste are recycled each month. In addition, more than 40 tons of used mattresses, furniture, linens, dishes, flatware, office and kitchen equipment, computers, and TVs have been donated to more than 75 nonprofit organizations since 1995, when the hotel formalized its community outreach program.

Since its inception in 1993, the WRAP program has recognized more than 1,000 companies for efforts that have substantially contributed to reducing waste in the state. Besides generating and han-

dling fewer excess materials, many companies find they can cut waste disposal costs and boost profit margins through successful recycling and waste prevention programs.

The application period for the 1998 WRAP Awards begins May 1 and runs till June 30, 1998. For more information or to receive a WRAP application call Brenda Smyth at 916-985-3353 or go online at www.ciwmb.ca.gov/mrt/wrap/wpwrap.htm.



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