



For Immediate Release

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SHOREWAY SOLAR POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT APPROVED
Using Solar Energy at Facility Estimated to Save \$2.1 Million, Reduce Carbon Emissions

SAN CARLOS, CA – July 28, 2011 – The RethinkWaste Board of Directors today approved authorizing the Agency’s Executive Director to negotiate and enter into a Solar Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Fresh Air Energy-II, dba Ecoplexus, for the installation of solar panels at the Shoreway Environmental Center in San Carlos and use of solar energy created from the solar panels at the facility. RethinkWaste estimates that it will save approximately \$2.1 million in energy costs over the next 20 years and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by nearly 1.6 million pounds per year – the equivalent of removing 252 cars per year from the road.

Through the power purchase agreement, Ecoplexus will finance, own, operate and maintain the photovoltaic system to be installed on the roofs of Shoreway’s Transfer Station and Materials Recovery Facility (MRF, where recyclables are processed.) In return, RethinkWaste will host the system and purchase the electric output for a predetermined price for the length of the contract. The term of the contract is 20 years.

The system will be capable of producing approximately 740 kilowatts of electricity per hour – enough power to run nearly 6,000 60-watt light bulbs for eight hours. Approximately 45% of Shoreway’s Transfer Station and MRFs energy needs will be supplied through the solar system.

“We are excited to be moving forward with this key environmental feature of the Shoreway facility in San Carlos,” remarked Kevin McCarthy, Executive Director of RethinkWaste. “It’s important for public agencies to demonstrate and lead by example with cost effective everyday environmental solutions that can also be implemented by local residents and businesses.”

The estimated cost savings is based on Shoreway’s energy needs and rising costs through Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) utility bills. PG&E’s rates have risen 35% over the past five years, or a rate of 7% per year. In comparison, the Solar PPA fixes the rate of

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increase to 3% per year for the term. It would also cost approximately \$3.5-\$4 million for RethinkWaste to self-finance the installation of the photovoltaic panels and system.

The Solar PPA project is a result of the Silicon Valley Collaborative Renewable Energy Project launched in 2008 by Joint Venture Silicon Valley Network's Public Sector Climate Task Force, in partnership with the County of Santa Clara. The project evaluated collaborative procurement opportunities for a Solar PPA, with the goals of obtaining favorable pricing through a large-scale regional aggregate purchase and to allow smaller governmental entities to participate in a PPA that would otherwise be unable to participate due to the size of project sites. Other agencies that made up the initial projects included in the collaboration along with RethinkWaste consist of the cities of Cupertino, Los Gatos, Milpitas, Morgan Hill, Mountain View, and Pacifica; the County of Santa Clara and the Valley Transit Authority.

The installation of the solar panels and use of solar energy will also qualify the buildings for LEED certification, and provide numerous other environmental benefits. Installation is anticipated to begin this fall and be completed by the end of 2011.

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. RethinkWaste also owns and manages the Shoreway Environmental Center in San Carlos that includes a permitted solid waste transfer station and a recycling processing facility. 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.

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