



YOLO COUNTY ENCOURAGES SAFE RECYCLING **“Don’t Make Your Holidays Hazardous”**

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Yolo County, California (December 22, 2009) – With the holiday season underway, Yolo County reminds residents there are free collection sites for Universal Waste, which is illegal to throw in the trash. “Universal waste” refers to the most common and “universally” available hazardous household products including electronic waste such as televisions, computers and microwaves as well as fluorescent lights, household batteries, cell phones and mercury-containing devices. Not only is it illegal to throw universal waste in the trash, but when improperly disposed, universal waste may pose a risk to human health and the environment.

“It is important at this time of year when households typically have more trash, that residents shop wisely and properly manage universal waste,” says Marissa Juhler, Yolo County Waste Reduction and Sustainability Manager. “We encourage residents to buy electronics from companies that take them back for recycling and to bring batteries, cell phones, fluorescent lights and other products to our free collection events at the Yolo County Central Landfill and various retail locations throughout the County.”

For more information on universal waste recycling in Yolo County, go to www.yolocounty.org/index.aspx?page=437.

Consumers can reduce battery waste by replacing alkaline batteries with rechargeable batteries in electronic toys and gadgets. Rechargeable batteries can be recharged many times and then recycled throughout Yolo County. To find a local battery and cell phone recycling site, Juhler suggests Yolo County residents visit the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation’s website at www.call2recycle.org and input their zip code to find a location nearby.

Even popular consumer items such as singing greeting cards, light-up shoes and talking toys may have batteries, which means they can’t be disposed in the trash. These items aren’t hazardous themselves, but the batteries cannot be landfilled.

“We encourage consumers to consider the lifecycle impacts of the things they buy and to ask manufacturers to ‘design it green and take-it-back’ at the end-of-life,” says Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director of the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC). CPSC is a non-profit organization that educates consumers, businesses and policy makers about the economic and environmental benefits of increasing stewardship by the producers of products. CPSC’s consumer webpage www.calpsc.org/consumer/index.html includes information to help consumers make eco-friendly purchasing decisions and suggests ways consumers can advocate for product stewardship. CPSC is a



partner in Yolo County's Household Hazardous Waste Grant awarded by the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

The Yolo County Central Landfill is located at 44090 County Road 28H in Woodland and is open seven days a week, Monday through Saturday from 6:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The landfill will be closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day. The landfill's automated phone system (530-666-8729) offers details about the County's e-waste and universal waste recycling programs and provides directions to the site.

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The California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) is an organization of more than 100 local governments and associations and hundreds of other partners, formed to support development of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework and its implementation. EPR is policy whereby product manufacturers are responsible for the life cycle of their products. CPSC's mission is to shift California's product waste management system from one focused on government funded and ratepayer financed waste diversion to one that relies on producer responsibility in order to reduce public costs and drive improvements in product design that promote environmental sustainability.

