

MRF of the Month

SBWMA Shoreway Environmental Center (SEC)



The largest publically-owned and -operated MRF in North America, the SBWMA Shoreway Environmental Center (SEC) is located in San Carlos, California, “The City of Good Living,” which is located approximately halfway between San Francisco to its north and San Jose to the south.

Built and owned by the South Bayside Waste Management Authority (RethinkWaste), the brand-new 70,200-square-foot MRF replaced the old Shoreway Recycling and Disposal Center to better serve the approximately 92,000 single-family households and 10,000 businesses that feed the SEC.

RethinkWaste is a joint powers authority with 12 member agencies (the cities of Belmont, Burlingame, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Menlo Park, Redwood City, San Carlos and San Mateo; the towns of Atherton and Hillsborough; the County of San Mateo; and the West Bay Sanitary District) in San Mateo County, which is also where the facility receives its single-stream materials from.

The recycling system for the \$26 million MRF was designed, manufactured and installed by Bulk Handling Systems, “designed together for maximum efficiency and recovery,” according to RethinkWaste. It processes approximately 245 tons per day, on average, handling 60 tons of containers and 185 tons of fiber daily.

The facility is being run under a 10-year contract by South Bay Recycling and the materials processed at the center are collected by the area’s franchise hauler, Recology San Mateo County.

When the SEC was built, it was intended to be “California’s greenest recycling center and transfer station,” and, thus, included numerous environmentally-friendly features, including a roof-mounted photovoltaic system; a reflective, “cool” roof; numerous windows, translucent panels and skylights for passive lighting; and a rainwater capture system. The



Technical Specifications*

SBWMA Shoreway Environmental Center (SEC)

Location:

San Carlos, California

Start-up date:

April 4, 2011

Number of processing lines:

Two – one residential, one commercial

Throughput:

30 tons per hour for residential, 15 tons per hour for commercial

Tons of material processed in 2011:

Approximately 65,000 tons

Residue rate:

7.5 percent



2007-2008 Materials Processing and Recycling in the United States: Yearbook and Directory

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The 1,300 page Yearbook is the only comprehensive guide to Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) in the United States, providing information on 583 operating, planned and shut projects. A nationally recognized resource, it provides a strategic analysis of the post-consumer recycling industry and a database of U.S. Material Recovery Facilities. It is an invaluable reference tool for solid waste decision makers, planners, consultants, and organizations interested in the present and future of recycling.

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building was also built using a great deal of materials with recycled content as well as a “comprehensive construction waste management plan diverted 95-percent of construction waste and debris from the landfill during construction of the new buildings,” according to RethinkWaste.

In addition to the MRF, the facility houses an Environmental Education Center which has “museum-quality exhibits” promoting waste reduction and recycling to visiting schools, community groups and the general public.

The SBWMA Shoreway Environmental Center runs one shift five days per week (Monday-Friday), and employs 38 workers (22 sorters and eight operators, with eight for operational support), plus administrative employees.

*Know of a North American MRF that you feel *Resource Recycling* readers should know about? If so, e-mail your recommendation, with high-resolution pictures, to dylan@resource-recycling.com, and your facility may just be highlighted in a future “MRF of the Month” column.

