



March 15, 2023

For Immediate Release

Fort Bragg CRV Redemption Center Update

Redwood Waste Solutions (RWS) is aware of the need for a CRV Redemption Center along the coast, and that there is a daily fee that is approaching for several retailers due to the lack of a CRV Redemption center. RWS understands that it is our contractual obligation to open a redemption center to support the coastal residents and businesses. We have taken this responsibility seriously. RWS staff has worked for months, explored 20 different potential locations, and taken several different approaches to bring this resource back to the Fort Bragg community.

On March 8th, 2023 an application was deemed complete for review by CalRecycle for a CRV Redemption Pilot Project, which would allow Redwood Waste Solutions to operate in a mobile manner at multiple locations along the coast. We anticipate that there will be a notification of approval or denial on this application by April 8th, 2023. Upon an approval we anticipate being operational within 30 days.

In addition to the CRV Redemption Pilot Project Application, RWS is working alongside a property owner to lease one of their parcels to operate a permanent CRV Redemption Facility within the Fort Bragg city limits. The property owner has been very collaborative on this effort, and upon finalizing the lease RWS will begin working on the Coastal Development Permit process as soon as possible. While this is not a quick fix, it is one that we are committed to.

We understand the concern the community has on this issue, and we will be a part of the solution.

Sincerely,

Redwood Waste Solutions

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CRV Redemption Center Project Timeline

January 2022: Began the approval process of developing the site at 1280 N Main, which included a buy back and customer service office. As the approval process progressed, Caltrans stated that there needed to be substantial road improvement on Highway 1 IF this property were to have a buy back and customer service office. This halted the development of the Buy Back at this location.

July 2022: RWS implemented the new contract and was actively collaborating with staff regarding the issues presented by Caltrans and discussing different locations for the CRV Redemption Facility. RWS also found information on the Cal Recycle CRV Pilot Project and begins to explore due to the ability to travel to multiple locations.

August 2022: Have first meeting regarding the CRV Pilot Project with CalRecycle to get information on application process, and program overall.

September 2022: No traction is made after CRV Pilot Project meetings, as a permanent facility was seen to be ideal. Discussions on possible locations continued.

October 2022: Redwood Waste Solutions receives approval for the Albion Transfer Station to use their property for a CRV Redemption Facility, and it has the proper zoning where RWS could open within a quicker timeline than other locations. This location was explored due to not having progress on properties near the City of Fort Bragg. RWS Discussed with County Staff, City Staff, and Supervisor Ted Williams to do a survey on the community approval of placing the facility at Albion Transfer Station. RWS received a 62% approval rating on the project. (Data Attached)

November 2022: Data was presented to County elected officials, City of Fort Bragg staff, and County of Mendocino Staff and it was deemed that Albion would only be an option if all other options fell through due to road condition and traffic concerns. Additionally, City of Fort Bragg staff expressed concern over the distance from City Limits of Fort Bragg. We received direction to pursue the CRV pilot project. After this took place Redwood Waste Solutions staff, County of Mendocino Staff, and City of Fort Bragg staff met with CalRecycle to again explore the application process, and present serious interest in applying.

December 2022-March 2023: Redwood Waste Solutions Staff has met with City of Fort Bragg and County of Mendocino staff weekly, unless cancelled due to scheduling conflict or holiday, to discuss the progress on the CRV Redemption Pilot Project. (Agendas Attached) During this time progress has been made weekly, and the official CRV Pilot Project application was deemed complete and received by Cal Recycle on March 8th, 2023. All locations in Fort Bragg City Limits are subject to a Limited Term Permit if car queuing takes place, which expires after six months. This is an issue presented by choosing locations in Fort Bragg City Limits to operate the pilot on, but we have continued to work towards finding another location for the pilot project in city limits.

To open a permanent facility both known available properties explored in city limits require a coastal development permit (CDP). In January of 2023, the City of Fort Bragg set up a meeting between Redwood Waste Solutions and two property owners to discuss renting one of their parcels. Since that meeting active negotiations have been taking place to lease property from the property owner with most ideal location to utilize for the Pilot or Permanent CRV Redemption Center. RWS is working with the property owner to finalize a lease agreement. The lease is now back with property owner's legal team for approval, and discussions have gone very well.