

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 31, 2018

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### **KEEPING YOUR RECYCLABLES CLEAN AND DRY**

Until recently, the recyclable items brought to the Tehama County/Red Bluff Landfill have shipped to various parts of the world with little obstacles in getting these commodities to a processing plant. Historically, China has been the largest importer of most of these commodities; however, as a result of their efforts to increase environmental stewardship, recyclable material imports from the United States have been limited or stopped completely because loads of recyclables contained too much trash or the recyclable material was too dirty. Under China's new recyclable material import policy, a few plastic bags or plastic bottles in a bale of office paper could now result in the entire bale being rejected and potentially landfilled instead of recycled.

Our landfill has started implementing steps to reduce the contamination in the recycling, but it will take all of us in Tehama County to keep our recyclable commodities from being landfilled. The Landfill has begun to slow down the sorting line to allow sorters more time to pick out clean recyclables while also adding additional staff during peak times. One key step you can take at home is ensure only recyclable materials are put out for recycling, and only deposit clean and dry items in your bin. By cleaning out that empty peanut butter jar or keeping that greasy pizza box out of the recycling stream, you are helping to ensure that all the items in your recycling cart can be made into new products instead of being buried in our landfill.

The more recyclable materials kept out of landfills decreases the need to build more landfills and the environmental impacts of extracting raw materials from the earth to produce new products. The value of recycling does not just equate to the dollar amount that the individual commodity fetches on the market, but also includes the positive impact on our environment and the creation of new jobs to process recyclables. So, while recycling may mean less revenue for our landfill, it has greater long-term benefits for our community and County – a win for all.

To find out more information on what can be recycled or if interested in learning more about our landfill, please contact the Tehama County Solid Waste Management Agency at (530) 528-1103 or visit [www.tehamacountylandfill.com](http://www.tehamacountylandfill.com). The Landfill offers various educational programs as well as tours to schools and community groups.