

East County waste collection facility doubles in size

By Paul Burgarino

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Residents in East Contra Costa County will soon have a larger place to stash hazardous trash.

The Delta Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility recently expanded capacity of its site to roughly 7,000 square feet from 3,500 square feet — doubling the amount of e-waste and medical waste products that can be processed.

The facility, located at 2500 Pittsburg/Antioch Highway, doubled the amount of waste it collected between 2003 and 2008, said Amanda Roa, environmental compliance engineer with Delta Diablo Sanitation District. The facility is operated by Delta Diablo.

Many aren't aware how many chemicals are around the house, and what is and isn't supposed to go in household trash, Roa said.

Al Belair of Discovery Bay said he's gone a few times to drop off paint cans, e-waste and florescent light bulbs. It's convenient to be able to take e-waste any time rather than waiting for collection events, he said.

"The big thing is people don't know about this place. It's not used as much as it could be," he said.

Drop-off is free for East Contra Costa residents — another benefit, Belair said.

The facility also supports a new state law prohibiting disposal of sharps into any container used for collection of solid waste, recyclable materials or green waste. Sharps include hypodermic needles, with or without syringes, blades, needles with attached tubing, syringes contaminated with biohazardous waste and broken glass.

Sharps are required to be placed in an approved container and managed through a waste management facility or approved collection site. The Delta facility provides home containers for sharps free of charge by mail. Last year, the facility brought in more than 2,500 pounds of sharps.

Facility expansion includes a room where people can pick up products others have dropped off like paint or cleaning materials and reuse them once they are checked by hazard waste professionals.

Construction was funded by a \$300,000 grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

Reach Paul Burgarino at 925-779-7164.

IF YOU're GOing

- **WHAT:** Delta Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility
- **WHERE:** 2550 Pittsburg/Antioch Highway, Pittsburg
- **WHEN:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Open house 6 p.m. Wednesday
- **WHO:** Available free to residents of Antioch, Bay Point, Bethel Island, Brentwood, Byron, Discovery Bay, Knightsen, Oakley and Pittsburg. Bring proof of residency, such as a utility bill or driver's license.
- **ITEMS ACCEPTED:** E-waste, liquid cleaners, aerosols, adhesives, pesticides, pool chemicals, motor oil, antifreeze, brake fluid, car batteries, latex paint, oil-based paint, varnishes, paint

thinner, pharmaceuticals, fluorescent bulbs, mercury thermometers, propane tanks, household batteries.

- NOT ACCEPTED: Appliances, asbestos compressed gas cylinders, infectious or biologically active materials, radioactive materials, railroad ties/treated wood, tires, explosives or ammunition
- DETAILS: Visit www.dds.org/hhw/hazardous_waste.html#acceptable.
- OTHER COLLECTION SITES: Central Contra Costa Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program, 4797 Imhoff Place, Martinez, 800-646-1431; and West County Resource Recovery, 101 Pittsburg Ave., Richmond, 888-412-9277