



City of Davis Public Works Department

1717 Fifth Street Davis, CA 95616

530-757-5686 FAX: 530-758-4738

Environmental column

February 8, 2008

By Jennifer Gilbert, Conservation Coordinator

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF BATTERY AND MERCURY BAN

February 9 marks the 2 year anniversary of the statewide landfill ban on batteries, fluorescent light bulbs/tubes, electronics, and other products containing mercury or other heavy metals. These items are illegal to dispose of in the trash.

Davis residents can recycle alkaline, lithium/button, and rechargeable batteries for free at these collection sites in Davis: Davis Senior Center, Longs Drug stores, Rite Aid stores, Hibbert Lumber, Davis Ace Hardware and Radio Shack. Please separate the batteries by type (alkaline, rechargeable, and lithium/button batteries) before recycling.

Please keep in mind that the battery collection sites are for residents **ONLY**. This means that businesses **CANNOT** drop off batteries at these sites. If a business collects batteries from their employees, the batteries are considered business-generated hazardous waste and cannot be dropped-off at the local sites listed above. State hazardous waste laws regulate how a business may dispose of its hazardous waste; documentation of proper disposal is usually required. Local drop-off sites may refuse to accept batteries they believe are business-generated. Instead, please encourage your employees to bring their batteries back to the stores when they go shopping.

Electronic devices, including TV's, computer monitors, printers, VCRs, cell phones, blenders, radios etc., often contain heavy metals like lead, cadmium, copper, and chromium. The Yolo County Central Landfill accepts electronics for free recycling everyday during normal business hours (Monday-Saturday 6:30am-4:00pm and Sunday 9:00am-5:00pm).

Fluorescent tubes, bulbs and other mercury-containing items (high intensity discharge (HID), metal halide, sodium, and neon bulbs, thermometers, etc.) have been banned from the trash because they contain mercury vapor that may be released to the environment when they are broken. Yolo County residents can bring these items to the Yolo County Central Landfill **FOR FREE DROP-OFF** during a Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Day.

Businesses in Yolo County can dispose of their hazardous waste through the Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) program at the Yolo County Central Landfill. For more information, call 666-8729, or visit www.davisrecycling.org.

Just a reminder: During the winter rains, yard waste can clog our gutters and storm drains. This can cause water to back up and may contribute to street and landscape flooding. Please be sure that your yard waste is piled away from the gutter to allow the

storm water to pass freely. Davis is a bike friendly city—please do not to block the bike lanes!

CURRENT EVENTS

California Duck Days, a wetlands festival, will begin with a gala reception on February 22 at the Davis Arts Center, from 5:30 to 7:30pm. The reception includes refreshments and a wildlife art exhibit by Yolo County high school students. On Saturday, February 23, the festival will continue with field trips and workshops at the Yolo Wildlife Area Headquarters facility in South Davis. For more information, visit www.yolobasin.org or call the Yolo Basin Foundation at 530-757-3780.

Don't miss this month's free household hazardous waste (HHW) drop-off events February 8 and 9 from 9:00am to 2:00pm at the Yolo County Central Landfill! Bring in your paints, pesticides, fluorescent light bulbs, household cleaners, expired medicines and more for FREE and safe disposal. Mark your calendar for the HHW drop-off dates next month, March 7 and 8, from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Check out the reuse opportunities at the landfill as well! During the HHW drop-off event reusable items are available for FREE! Stop by the landfill during a HHW drop-off event to take your pick of free paints, fertilizers, household cleaners and more!

For more information, visit www.davisrecycling.org or email me at PWweb@cityofdavis.org.