



October 7, 2020

Re: Marin Recycling Center Buyback Facility Closure

Dear Franchisers' Group,

We are writing to inform you of our intention to permanently close the buyback portion of the Marin Recycling Center. We understand that this facility has been a staple in the community, however, in evaluating it during the time that it has been closed due to COVID, we have determined to permanently close the facility. To mitigate the concerns from the public who have been waiting for the facility to reopen, we have developed a list of facilities that are open and redeeming deposits. There is at least one additional facility still in operation in Marin County along with over a dozen facilities in neighboring counties.

At the onset of COVID-19, we evaluated the health risk to the public and our employees at our various facilities. In evaluating the buyback center, we felt that this service created a much closer contact between the public and our workers. Also, shortly after shelter-in-place orders were implemented at the county level, the governor also issued executive order N-54-20 allowing for the closure of recycling centers. This was later extended by executive order N-70-20.

This second order was lifted at the end of August. At that time, we determined that due to the continued risk to the public and our employees, as well as the unlikelihood of this material becoming a source of litter on the streets, we have determined to remain closed. Another factor in our decision is our necessity to maintain our other programs even amid a potential reduction in workforce from COVID-19 infections. In June we had over 40 employees test positive for COVID-19 having a significant impact on our essential operations. By keeping the buyback center closed, we can ensure that if we see another spike in cases, we will be able to maintain operations at our other, critical, facilities.

During this time of closure, we have also reevaluated our processing capabilities. The buyback center has been a popular redemption facility for San Rafael residents and brings a large amount of vehicle traffic to Jacoby street. Traffic from the Marin Resource Recovery Center also uses the same entrance and this has often caused additional congestion and traffic on Jacoby Street. In addition, Prior to COVID-19, the mix of recyclable materials was changing from white office paper and newsprint to cardboard. This has been accelerated during the sheltering in place with more and more people purchasing online leading to a significant jump in cardboard. We do not anticipate this going back to pre-COVID levels, even when all sheltering restrictions are lifted. Therefore, we have determined the need to upgrade our recycling facility to

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adjust for this new material breakdown. This upgrade will most likely include expansions to the facility that will overrun the space currently occupied to operate the buyback facility. We are currently working on architectural designs for the upgrade of the facility.

We hope you can support this decision to close the buyback facility. We are happy to answer any questions you may have regarding this decision.

Sincerely,


Joseph J. Garbarino
Chairman of the Board
Marin Sanitary Service


Justin Wilcock
Director of Operations
Marin Sanitary Service

CC: Patty Garbarino

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