

# Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury



## RECYCLISTS

As the legislature enters the final weeks of the legislative session, Californians Against Waste ([cawrecycles.org](http://cawrecycles.org)) is actively engaged in strengthening California's waste reductions policies amid a climate of cuts. In these final weeks, the legislature has the opportunity to strengthen the Bottle Bill, divert additional materials from landfills, and reduce hazardous waste. Here are the details on these initiatives.

■ **Bottle Bill Fix:** The Department of Conservation was forced to address the imbalance in the Beverage Container Recycling Fund by proportionally reducing most Bottle Bill expenditures, including handling fees to recyclers and payments to cities and counties. Instead, Californians Against Waste has been working on a package of solutions that would balance the fund while strengthening recycling by expending unencumbered funds, accelerating CRV payments, prioritizing non-core recycling funding, and expanding the scope and CRV amount of covered containers. Tell the legislature to support the environmental, local government and recycler coalition solution that would prioritize Bottle Bill funding.

■ **Landfill Diversion:** Many readily recyclable materials continue to be disposed of by California businesses. Large office buildings, for instance, divert only 7 percent of their waste, compared with a statewide average of 58 percent diversion. AB 479 (Chesbro) would require the state to adopt programs to increase statewide

diversion to 75 percent by 2020 and addresses recycling in the largely underserved commercial and multifamily sectors.

### ■ Multifamily Recycling:

While nearly 70 percent of Californians living in single-family homes have access to curbside recycling, no more than 40 percent of those living in multifamily dwellings have access to a residential recycling opportunity, and many of those are unaware of it. AB 473 (Blumenfeld) would provide residential recycling for more than 7.1 million Californians residing in more than 2.4 million multifamily dwelling units.

■ **Paint:** Postconsumer paint is the single largest source of Household Hazardous Wastes (HHW) generated in this state, costing more than \$16 million total to local programs annually. AB 1343 (Huffman) will reduce the financial burden on

local governments and protect the environment by requiring manufacturers to take responsibility for establishing and financing a safe and reliable system for the recovery and proper management of residential postconsumer paint.

■ **Waste Board Dissolved:** The California Integrated Waste Management Board was dissolved as part of the budget deal and its functions are being moved to the Natural Resources Agency effective January 1, 2010.

## KEYBIRD



George Mauro got this little birdy from a friend who created it on her keyboard with a few clever keystrokes.

## RIPTIDE PARTNERS UP

PacificaRiptide.com goes with the flow, now sharing its local coastside news on the S.F. Chronicle's Peninsula Coastside blog at [sfgate.com](http://sfgate.com). Riptide looks forward to this new partnership as it continues to "Cover the Waterfront."



## OLIVE OILED

The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) seeks information on the theft of a radio signal receiver unit near Santa Cruz last week. The receiver, worth approximately \$7,000 and about the size of a lunchbox, was stolen from a hill above Sunset State Beach. It was being used to track the location and health of Olive, a rehabilitated sea otter who had been treated for injuries received from a natural oil seep in the ocean. Anyone with information on the theft or whereabouts of the radio receiver is asked to call 1-888-334-2258. Callers can remain anonymous. The receiver looks like a small silver metal box with dials and gauges, and was in a brown case when it was taken. It weighs about four pounds. Because of its specific nature, it cannot be used for commercial or private purposes. For more information about Olive the sea otter, please visit her Facebook page, "Olive the Oiled Otter." Subscribe to DFG's News by email or RSS feed at [dfg.ca.gov/news](http://dfg.ca.gov/news). The southern sea otter is a protected species under both state and federal endangered-species laws. Its population has been declining, and only about 2,800 remain off the coast of California. Information collected by radio signal receivers is used by researchers to better understand the health threats that affect sea otters and to help restore their numbers.

## CONNEMARA KUMBAYA

After months of languishing in real estate limbo, with the same headline in the S.F. Chronicle declaring week after week "Only a few homes left at Connemara," the mini-development on Lower Milagra Ridge at last has only one home left for sale—at a whopping \$1,475,000, according to the Chronicle story. C'mon, folks, what a bargain! Snap that baby up and put these folks out of their misery. Is this some kind of sign? Does this mean the economic recovery has begun? Get up there and vote with your wallet. Buy this house or else.

## SAFE AT SAFEWAY

Ever since Tribune Editor Emeritus Bill Drake caught me coming out of Safeway one day and good-naturedly gave me a hard time about it (even though I told him I was only banking at the Wells Fargo ATM inside the store), I have to sort of mentally look over my shoulder whenever I go into Safeway now (again, mainly to bank, though I confess to an occasional emergency purchase). This all stems from an item I wrote long ago in my Tribune column about preferring to shop at locally owned groceries rather than big corporate Safeway. But this ignores the people question: the good local folks who work at Safeway, whom I have a newfound appreciation for after two of them recently helped me find my lost wallet. As I was driving home from the store, I discovered that my wallet was missing. I drove back to Safeway in a panic. The checker calmly opened up the office and played back the security tape, ascertaining that I had indeed put my wallet away in my jacket pocket. Then the bagger walked outside with me and helped me retrace all my steps to my car. Voila! I found my missing wallet down on the floor next to the driver's seat, where it had fallen out of my pocket, unnoticed in the dark. High five to Safeway!

## WELCOME HOME

Pacifica police, firefighters, military families, and friends welcomed home Navy seaman Matthew Carey last Saturday. Carey had just returned from deployment.

## SWAMI SEZ

"In a cat's eye, all things belong to cats." (English proverb)

## MAYBURRITOVILLE

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