



## For Immediate Release

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## UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR LANDFILL CUSTOMERS

**Merced** – Customers visiting the landfills in Merced and Los Banos will notice some changes when they arrive to dispose of their items. Both sites are still open to the public six days a week, Monday through Saturday, from 7:00am to 3:30pm, but procedures at the gates have changed slightly due to the COVID-19 emergency.

For their safety, customers must stay in their vehicles until they arrive at the scale house to weigh in. When approaching the scale house window, customers must comply with social distancing requirements while waiting to pay their fee and are advised to wear a mask in accordance with state and local guidance. And while cash is still accepted, customers are asked to use credit or debit cards for payment to reduce risk to employees.

“Since the beginning of the stay-at-home order we’ve seen a 27 percent increase in the number of residents using the various services at both landfills,” said Eric Zetz, Director of the Regional Waste Management Authority. “While we are eager to assist customers in the proper disposal of their items, we are asking people to be patient while they wait to enter and exit the site and to check our Facebook page for current disposal and recycling information, as well as updates on wait times.”

The Highway 59 landfill near Merced will be undergoing scale house lane improvements this summer which will reduce wait times for customers entering the site. Scale house lane improvements at the Billy Wright landfill in Los Banos will happen later this fall.

Both landfill sites in Merced and Los Banos allow for disposal of a range of items at no cost and have recycling and diversion programs for things such as mattresses, carpet, e-waste, household hazardous waste and more. Disposal fees apply to most material brought to the landfill, but some recycling programs accept specific items for free or a reduced rate. For more information, visit [www.mcrwma.org](http://www.mcrwma.org) or the /MCRWMA Facebook page.

Merced County Association of Governments is a joint powers authority responsible for administering the Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority. The Regional Waste Authority operates two regional landfills, one in Merced on North Highway 59 and the Billy Wright landfill in Los Banos.

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