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HOMES & LIVING

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One big step closer to a future without landfills

The Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority made an essential leap toward achieving its goal of diverting 75 percent of materials from landfills, and brought us all one day closer to a future without landfills.

On Jan. 27, the SVSWA board of directors passed Ordinance 07, making recycling a mandatory activity throughout the Salinas Valley. The SVSWA board of directors is composed of community leaders from the cities of Salinas, Gonzales,



ALAN STYLES
Recycling

Greenfield, King City, Soledad and the unincorporated area of Monterey County east of Moss Landing, Castroville and Carmel Valley, representing the interests of the communities they serve.

Ordinance 07 requires that those who generate trash — whether from residential, multifamily (apartments, town homes and condominiums) or commercial properties — place recyclable materials in separate and covered collection containers (carts, bins) designated for recyclable materials only. Property owners must provide the opportunity to recycle by subscribing to the appropriate level of recycling service with their solid waste collector. In turn, the waste collection companies must

provide minimum recycling collection and processing services to their patrons, to ensure that recyclables will not be disposed of in a landfill.

Each city council in affected cities will have to enact the ordinance before it goes into effect, according to Salinas Mayor Dennis Donohue, who serves on the Waste Authority board.

For most people, this ordinance only reinforces their current recycling activities, but for some,

See **STYLES, 5C**

STYLES

Continued from page 1C

it will require taking action to make recycling available to tenants or to integrate recycling into business operations.

Self-hauling is still an option, but those who self-haul their garbage to any SVSWA facility will be required to separate their recyclables; all haulers are prohibited from disposing of their garbage mixed with recyclable materials. Self-haulers should expect to drop their separated recyclable materials before disposing of their garbage,

but it is free to recycle so separating out recyclables can significantly reduce disposal costs. Some might even be pleasantly surprised at how many items are recyclable.

Effective dates for this ordinance may vary by city. To learn more about how to comply in your area, contact your waste collection agency or SVSWA.

► *Alan Styles is recycling coordinator for the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority. His column appears the third Saturday of the month in Central Coast Living. Contact him at alanst@svswa.org.*
