

### **City of Cupertino Expresses Interest in SMaRT Station Services**

Environmental Services staff has been in discussion with their counterparts at the City of Cupertino the possibility of taking Cupertino recyclables and organics to the Sunnyvale Materials Recovery and Transfer Station (SMaRT Station®), where the materials would be processed and sent to market.

Cupertino staff has been working closely with the management of its hauler, Recology South Bay, on programs to achieve the City's recycling goals. Despite strong efforts by both entities and due to many reasons, mostly out of their collective control, staff expressed that the current programs have not been able to achieve the targeted commercial diversion rate.

Among the alternative solutions under discussion is the possibility of Cupertino, through Recology, delivering its recyclables and organics to the SMaRT Station to be processed with similar materials from the cities of Sunnyvale, Mountain View and Palo Alto. Recology already hauls recyclables, yard trimmings and garbage to SMaRT in its role as franchised hauler for City of Mountain View.

Cupertino staff believes that the SMaRT Station would provide it with two special benefits. First, SMaRT has capabilities that allow it to better process materials for diversion than the current system, so the City and Recology will be able to achieve higher diversion rates. This is with reference to the food scraps pre-processing equipment soon to be installed at SMaRT. The equipment will process separately collected organics to make animal feed for pigs, chickens and fish, a higher use than compost or energy recovery (e.g. via anaerobic digestion).

Second, taking Cupertino's recyclables at the SMaRT Station would reduce collection truck travel for recyclables by over 30 miles per load, and for organics by 140 miles per load (roundtrip miles, in both cases).

Cupertino staff is planning to schedule a Council study session with its City Council for October 18 to explore the options and present the latest offerings in sustainable waste management. Sunnyvale staff will continue to discuss concepts with Cupertino, returning to Council for direction or consideration of an agreement, as appropriate.