



# County of Santa Cruz

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **MODULE 5 OPENS AT BUENA VISTA LANDFILL**

The County of Santa Cruz on Tuesday celebrated the opening of the last remaining module at Buena Vista Landfill, signaling the beginning of the end for a solid waste facility that has served the county for more than half a century.

Constructed at a cost of approximately \$6 million, the seven-acre Module 5 provides more than 250,000 square feet of floor space. It continues Buena Vista's tradition of innovative approaches to solid waste by not only using the latest techniques to avoid leakage, spills or odors, but by including methane gas wells to collect gas for generating power and limiting emissions.

"This facility continues the County's tradition of protecting the environment through innovative approaches to waste management," Santa Cruz County Board Chair Bruce McPherson said. "With Module 5, we've extended the life of Buena Vista Landfill another 15 to 20 years."

"Buena Vista has served us well over the years. The County turned trash into treasure by supporting recycling, maximizing diversion and using this facility to demonstrate responsible environmental stewardship through innovation and forward-thinking policies," County Administrative Officer Susan Mauriello said.

As much as 500 tons of waste comes to the landfill daily, about half of which is eventually recycled. Buena Vista has separate collections for recyclables, wood waste, household electronic goods, metals, mattresses and hazardous materials.

Santa Cruz County was one of the first to adopt a long-term "Zero Waste" goal, achieving a 75 percent waste diversion in 2010, ten years ahead of state goals. The County has also been at the forefront of environmentally friendly laws designed to limit waste going to the landfill (see attached), which has extended the life of the landfill.