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West Contra Costa County Leads State in Marine Flare Hazardous Waste Reduction with Free Collection Event

Richmond, CA., October 15, 2025— West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority (WCCIWMA)/RecycleMore is taking the lead in protecting local communities and the environment by hosting a free expired marine flare collection event from October 29 to November 8, 2025. Recreational boaters residing in Richmond, El Cerrito, Hercules, Pinole,



San Pablo and unincorporated Contra Costa County (i.e. El Sobrante, North Richmond, Tara Hills, Rollingwood, East Richmond Heights, Bayview, Montalvin Manor) can safely dispose of expired flares at the [West Contra Costa County Household Hazardous Waste \(HHW\) Facility at 101 Pittsburg Avenue, Richmond, CA 94801](#), Wednesday – Saturday, 9 AM to 4 PM. Proof of residency is required.



Boaters in California are required to carry [U.S. Coast Guard-approved visual distress signals](#), such as pyrotechnic marine flares. **These flares expire approximately every 42 months and become hazardous waste** that must be handled carefully. However, safe disposal is often difficult and expensive, as flares are considered explosives.

To prevent improper disposal and reduce environmental risks, this special event provides a much needed and free **disposal** option. The event is open to recreational boaters who live in RecycleMore's jurisdiction. Proof of residency will be required. Commercial flares and other hazardous waste will not be accepted.

Each year, an [estimated 174,000 expired flares are generated by recreational boaters in California](#), yet no statewide permanent disposal program exists. Without proper options, flares are too often tossed in the trash or into waterways, posing serious safety and environmental hazards.

This regional event is part of a larger collaborative effort involving the California Product Stewardship Council, and the California State Parks & Coastal Commission's Boating Clean and Green Program. In addition to safe collection, the campaign raises awareness about safer, reusable alternatives like electronic visual distress signals.

By offering this temporary collection event, RecycleMore is helping set a statewide example in hazardous waste management and boater safety. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of this limited-time opportunity to responsibly dispose of expired marine flares.

ABOUT California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC): CPSC developed and administers the Make the Electronic Marine Flare Switch campaign. CPSC educates both the public and private sectors about Product Stewardship and Extended Producer Responsibility, while collaborating with business, jurisdictions, waste and recycling companies, manufacturers, and others to promote and encourage sustainable practices.

ABOUT RECYCLEMORE: Known as the West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority (WCCIWMA) is a local government joint powers authority created by the cities of El Cerrito, Hercules, Pinole, Richmond, San Pablo and unincorporated Contra Costa County.

Within the jurisdiction, RecycleMore provides waste processing management for the franchised waste stream which includes the landfill, recyclables, composting, and Household Hazardous Waste (HHW).

RecycleMore is also charged with implementing and making sure the region is in compliance with California State Laws such as AB 939, AB 1826, and SB 1383, which mandate a reduction in the amount of waste materials going to landfill.

Related Links

Event Flyer: <https://recyclemore.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/WCC-2025-Marine-Flare-Event-Flyer-8.5x11-RecycleMore-101525-1.pdf>

Fact Sheet: <https://recyclemore.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/WCC-2025-Marine-Flare-Event-Fact-Sheet-8.5x11-RecycleMore-101525.pdf>

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