



PROTECT CRV MEDIA RELEASE

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rePlanet, California's Largest Convenience Zone Recycling Operation, Shuttters Entire Operation, Terminates 750 Employees Statewide

This morning we learned that rePlanet, California's largest convenience zone (CZ) recycler, ceased operations shuttering 284 redemption centers and terminating 750 jobs effective immediately. In existence since 1984, rePlanet's closure represents loss of access for Californians who count on convenient redemption centers to reclaim the deposits they paid on their beverage containers and yet another loss of an experienced operator. "As an industry, we must take action!" said Protect CRV Executive Director, Jenna Abbott. "We are well past the canary in the coal mine stage. Redemption recycling centers are the patient, the patient is on the table and the patient is coding. Over and over the industry has called for the crash cart with little response and patients just keep being allowed to expire."

Unfortunately, rePlanet is not the first operation to close nor is it likely to be the last. Since 2013, more than 1300 redemption centers have closed due to underpayments by the state, plummeting commodity prices and increasing operating costs such as rising wage and benefits expenses. In Ukiah and Sacramento, two of the oldest certified recycling centers closed after 40 years of service because the economics of recycling and the state payments do not cover operating costs. In Santa Cruz County, SLV Recycling closed 3 locations on June 30th after 30 years of service. With rePlanet's bankruptcy filing, Santa Cruz County no longer has any CRV recycling centers leaving consumers no place redeem their CRV deposits.

"Our legislators and the Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) MUST work with recycling center operators to come up with changes to the bottle bill that will encourage recycling centers to stay open and to re-open in unserved areas. We can talk and watch the domino effect as our redemption infrastructure crumbles or we can decide to take quick action. I vote action!" Stated Kenny Luong, Protect CRV's Board Chairman.

California's recycling redemption centers and their supply chain continue to face extreme challenges. Volatility in commodities prices, China's national sword, a proliferation of ordinances that affect or restrict their ability to operate and a historical lack of ability to influence the way we are regulated all have contributed to a staggering redemption center closure rate. Without access to redemption centers, the CRV is viewed by many as a tax rather than the incentive to return beverage containers to be used as clean feedstock for manufacturing.

"On a personal note, rePlanet was a member of Protect CRV and held a seat on our board of directors. We are saddened by the loss of a team of experienced recycling industry professionals at a time when the industry most needs expertise." finished Abbott "

About Protect CRV

Protect CRV is a 501C4 organization formed with the express purpose of supporting California's neighborhood recycling infrastructure. On behalf of our members and the consumers who depend on neighborhood recycling centers, we advocate to promote policies, legislation and reform that ensures recycling centers continue to exist and thrive. By providing education and to support to independent recycling centers, processors and manufacturers, we ensure the health and sustainability of the CRV recycling center operators. We envision a California where every consumer has access to a clean, well run recycling center where they can get their deposit back. Together, we Protect CRV.