

COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

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2009 Switch to DTV: Making the switch from analog to digital television

(Woodland, CA) – On June 12, 2009 all television will begin broadcasting in digital as a result of federal law passed requiring all television stations to turn off their analog signals – the traditional method of transmitting television signals. Broadcasting in digital is a more flexible and efficient technology than the current analog system and will enable television stations to offer dramatically clearer pictures, better sound quality and more programming choices. Digital broadcasting will free up parts of the valuable broadcast spectrum for public safety publications (police, fire and rescue squads) and will also allow companies to provide consumers with more advanced wireless services.

Those who rely on over-the-air television broadcasts through a rooftop antenna or rabbit ears and have an analog television will need to purchase a converter box to display the new digital signals. The California Integrated Waste Management Board encourages consumers to consider whether the simple addition of a digital signal converter box can extend the useful life of an otherwise perfectly functional television. Analog televisions will continue to work with cable and satellite. For information on the purchase of a converter box, or the digital-to-analog converter box coupon program, visit <u>www.dtv2009.gov</u> or call 1-888-388-2009. Converter boxes can be purchased at any participating national retailers such as Best Buy, Kmart, RadioShack, Sears, Target and Wal-Mart.

In California it is illegal to dispose of old televisions or other electronics in the trash because of the hazardous materials contained within. These hazardous materials can be harmful to the environment and human health if not properly recycled. Fortunately, recycling electronics has never been easier. Televisions and other e-waste items are accepted free of charge at the Yolo County Central Landfill (YCCL) daily. The YCCL is located at 44090 CR 28H in Woodland and is open for business Mon. through Sat., 6:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sundays, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excluding the following holidays: New Year's Day, Easter Sunday, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

For more information on the Yolo County Division of Integrated Waste Management programs, visit: <u>www.yolocounty.org</u> or call the automated phone line (530) 666-8729.