

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
APRIL 28, 2005**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT  
MARK MAZZAFERRO (707) 649-5462  
DEREK CRUTCHFIELD (707) 648-5346  
SHERYL WAKIN, VALLEJO RECYCLING, (707) 649-4234**

## **POLICE CITE WOMAN FOR STEALING FROM CURBSIDE RECYCLING BINS**

VALLEJO - On Thursday, April 28, 2005, the Vallejo Police cited a woman in the neighborhood of Sacramento and Alameda streets for theft of curbside recycling materials. It is the first citation issued for the theft of these materials since the City began its "STOP Recycling Theft" program in early March 2005.

At approximately 10 a.m. Thursday, Sheryl Wakin, the Vallejo Recycling Office Manager, was contacted by Vallejo Police and told they had a suspect in custody. Police had observed the woman going through curbside recycling bins, putting the materials in a plastic bag and then placing them in her car and driving away. Police stopped the woman and recovered two 30-gallon bags filled with recycling materials.

"Someone saw this taking place, and we were a couple of blocks away, so they called us to come over," said Vallejo Police Officer Rick Wizner. "We saw the woman going through recycling bins, removing empty milk jugs."

Wizner said the woman told him that she didn't know it was illegal to take recycling materials, and that she was making between \$15 and \$20 a day, or almost \$4,000 a year, doing so.

"The theft of recyclables has a direct impact on the cost of providing curbside recycling service to our residents," said Derek Crutchfield, the Recycling Coordinator for Vallejo. "Revenue from the sale of recyclables helps defray the cost of providing curbside recycling service to the residents of Vallejo. When recyclables are stolen, the shortfall is passed on to the residents, which could lead to an increase in recycling rates for our residents."

The woman was cited by Vallejo police and released.

"Hopefully this will get the message across that we are serious about stopping the theft of recyclables," Crutchfield said. "I want to thank the Vallejo police for helping us in this effort."