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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Mercury Reduction Effort Kicks Off

Sacramento County Regional Sanitation District launches program to collect and recycle mercury-containing items.

- WHO:** Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District and their *Be Mercury Free* program
- WHAT:** Mercury pollution and recycling efforts countywide
- WHERE:** The first recycling event, targeting the collection of silver mercury thermometers will take place at:
Anderson Bros. Leader Pharmacy
Town & County Village Shopping Center
2900 Fulton Avenue, Sacramento
- WHEN:** Wednesday, October 22, 2003 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) is striving to educate Sacramento County residents about the sources and effects of mercury, an element often found in old thermometers that can be harmful to the environment and human health if improperly disposed of.

SRCSD created the *Be Mercury Free* program with the goal of reducing the amount of mercury entering the Sacramento River watershed. This program is a comprehensive effort to eliminate common sources of mercury pollution, such as silver mercury thermometers found in households, old laboratory equipment in schools and universities, blood-pressure cuffs used in hospitals and amalgam (“silver”) fillings used in dental offices – all of which can end up in the watershed if disposed of improperly.

- more -

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The program kicks off to the general public with a mercury thermometer collection event. County residents can recycle their mercury thermometers at this special collection event, taking place at Anderson Bros. Leader Pharmacy on Fulton & Marconi on Wednesday, Oct. 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Attendees will receive a free digital thermometer in exchange for a mercury thermometer. SRCSD representatives will also be on hand to answer questions about mercury pollution prevention and proper disposal.

You can help prevent mercury pollution and protect your family by eliminating products that contain mercury from your home. Properly dispose of or recycle mercury-containing products and replace them with mercury free alternatives that are safe and efficient. For more information, call (916) 875-6644 or visit www.bemercuryfree.net.

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