



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY JOE JOHNSTON

Andres Hernandez separates a piece of metal from a pile of debris dropped off at the Chicago Grade Recycling Center. The new business accepts construction and demolition materials.

Recycler opens his gates

TEMPLETON FIRM WILL BE HUB FOR LARGE-SCALE MATERIALS

BY MICHAELA BALTASAR
THE TRIBUNE

As North County business owners and residents begin repairs in the aftermath of the San Simeon Earthquake, a new recycling center just for construction and demolition materials opened last week on a Templeton landfill.

Owner Michael Hoover said it's coincidental that the Chicago Grade Recycling Center opened several weeks after the Dec. 22 quake rocked San Luis Obispo County.

But he did add that the center should make it easier for North County residents to dispose of unwanted construction waste, such as wood, appliances, metal and concrete.

The center is the first of its



Robert Gallego empties freon from refrigerators that have been dropped off at the recycling yard. The orange 'X's' indicate units that have been processed.

kind north of the Cuesta Grade.

Waste management officials also said the center, which can handle up to 175 tons of waste each day, will increase the amount of recycling done in San Luis Obispo County.

State law requires cities and counties to recycle a minimum of 50 percent of all solid waste. San Luis Obispo County recy-

cles about 51 percent.

"We would like to do better, and this will help us do that," said Bill Worrell, manager of the county Integrated Waste Management Authority.

He added that a mixed load of construction and demolition waste usually has about 70 percent recyclable material.

People can pay \$45 per ton to

drop off waste at the new facility. Workers then sort the loads.

Some recyclable items, such as wood or asphalt, can be ground down on site and reused. Others, such as metal, must be sent to another recycling center outside the county for reuse.

Nonrecyclable waste is disposed in the landfill.