

DRAFT

June 20, 2008

Name
Title
Jurisdiction
Address
City, State Zip

Re: Formation of MRWMD Advisory Task Force on Strategic Planning

Dear:

Several important issues now face the Monterey Regional Waste Management District (District) and will affect local jurisdictions in the very near future.

This letter is to request your participation in a time-limited Task Force that will examine these issues, what they mean and the impacts they may have on member cities and customers. The core issues concern sources of revenue and maintaining the community infrastructure for waste reduction, recycling and waste disposal that the District now provides. Dealing with these issues can be expected to increase costs to haulers and customers, or significantly reduce services now provided by the District.

The tonnage of waste received at the District has declined 17% in the last two years which has resulted in corresponding decreases in revenue. We have dealt with this by reducing expenses, putting a freeze on hiring, delaying capital spending, and seeking additional revenue wherever possible. We anticipate two meetings of the Task Force. The first meeting, to be held September 24 from 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., will focus on two key questions:

1. Current landfill tipping fees do not adequately support District operations including the need to comply with unfunded mandates such as the California Climate Protection Act, AB 32, which will significantly increase operational expenses in the near future. Should landfill tipping fees be increased, or should existing programs be scaled back to further reduce expenses?
2. We anticipate the State will increase the mandatory diversion requirement to be as high as 75% in the next 1 – 3 years. Should the District expand current operations to increase recycling and diversion capacity?

With the recent decline in revenue, the District Board will be considering measures affecting future waste management, recycling, and disposal programs of the District by the end of this year or early next year. The Board seeks input from the Task Force on these important and potentially controversial issues. In 2004, a similarly formed Task Force provided valuable input leading to new District Guiding Principles, which are attached for your information.

We request that you or a senior member of your staff participate as a member of the Task Force and will appreciate confirmation of your attendance at the September 24 meeting. I can be reached by phone at 384-5313 or email at wmerry@mrwmd.org. If I am not available, please speak to Tim Flanagan, Assistant General Manager (tflanagan@mrwmd.org). Thank you for your consideration and willingness to assist the District in this important discussion.

Very truly yours,

William Merry
General Manager