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MONTEREY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Home of the Last Chance Mercantile

April 3, 2009

Mr. Ray von Dohren, General Manager
Carmel Area Wastewater District
PO Box 221428
Carmel, CA 93922

RE: Sludge Management

Dear Mr. Von Dohren:

The Monterey Regional Waste Management District (MRWMD) would like to encourage the Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD) to utilize the Monterey Peninsula Landfill (MPL) as a local resource to provide the beneficial use and/or disposal of the sludge generated at the CAWD's municipal wastewater treatment plant (WWTP).

The MRWMD has been in the business of providing reuse, recycling, composting, and solid and hazardous waste management services and infrastructure to the Peninsula since the mid 1960s. The District has been in the forefront of developing sustainable management practices for waste products since its inception. One of our current practices which diverts approximately 40,000 tons of material from landfilling each year is our sludge stabilization and management process. This process is described below:

- *Diversion and Beneficial Use : Diversion and beneficial use is achieved by converting the sludge into a stabilized vegetative cover material for use on the long-term intermediate and final cover side slopes at the MPL. Bulking agent materials for the sludge processing operation are provided from the MRWMD's on-site Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). Green waste and wood waste from various sources are ground and screened at the MRF prior to delivery to the sludge processing area. Processing of the sludge includes blending sludge and chips into windrows, turning windrows, and transporting stabilized sludge to stockpile.*


The MRWMD, CAWD, and Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency have been working collaboratively over the past several months to develop a sustainable long-term sludge management plan, which may include a number of solutions, such as bioreactor landfill disposal with landfill gas capture and conversion to electricity, drying and pelletizing, and thermal destruction/gasification.

Implementing local sustainable solutions to local problems, and supporting local publicly-owned and operated infrastructure, the District feels, is environmentally preferable to the exporting of Carmel's sludge to a far-away rural county in the San Joaquin Valley. The round-trip from CAWD's WWTP to McCarthy Farms in Kings County is approximately 240 miles, while the round-trip to the MPL is only 34 miles. The negative impacts of hauling sludge over great distances are numerous: dramatically increased greenhouse gas emissions (greater carbon footprint), increased consumption of non-renewable resources, (such as diesel fuel, oil, tires, etc.), increased traffic congestion and safety concerns, and wear and tear on the State's highway system. The establishment of a longer term and publicly controlled sludge management option for all the Peninsula cities in a local setting generating a beneficial use would seem to be the most environmentally sustainable option for all jurisdictions. As some of these options, as they present themselves, may be in the short run more expensive than the transfer out of the region of sludge, these options of course will need to be balanced for their economic sustainability as well.

As you know, there are currently two management options available to the MRWMD for the handling of the WWTP sludge received at the MPL. One option is for diversion with treatment and beneficial use at the MPL, and another option is for landfill disposal. The MPL is a large regional sanitary landfill with a remaining waste disposal capacity of nearly 40 million tons, and a service life in excess of 100 years. If a disposal option is chosen, the District has ample capacity well into the next century to accommodate the CAWD's sludge. The rate for both of these sludge management options has been established at \$30 per ton.

MRWMD encourages the CAWD's participation in an environmentally sound, long-term sludge management plan that will provide a local solution to a difficult disposal problem. We would welcome further dialogue with CAWD on this issue. Please contact Assistant General Manager Tim Flanagan or me at 384-5313 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



William M. Merry, P.E., BCEE
General Manager

cc: MRWMD Board of Directors