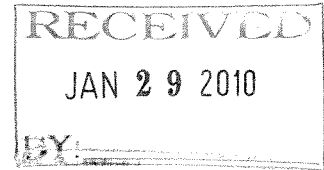


# Del Mesa Carmel

*California's Premier Adult Community*

January 28, 2010

Mr. William Merry, Gen. Mgr.  
Monterey Regional Waste  
Management District  
P.O. Box 1670  
Marina, CA 93933-1670



Dear Mr. Merry:

This correspondence refers to our general manager's request to you dated December 1, 2009 and your reply of December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Our board of directors is disappointed that you are not able to approve our Association's request to accept universal wastes (household batteries and fluorescent tubes and bulbs) delivered by our Association to the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection site, free of charge, as would be the case if these items were delivered by individual homeowners. We believe that collection of this household waste within our 289-home community, and then routinely transporting it to the Marina HHW facility, is a common sense approach to the proper disposal of this material – an approach that is both more efficient and effective than leaving it to individual homeowners to act on their own. We initiated our coordinated collection program after observing the amount of universal waste discarded in household trash, simply because many homeowners consider it inconvenient to take a few batteries or light bulbs to Marina.

As recommended in your letter, we will continue to support establishment of a collection location in Carmel Valley. We are also investigating the possibility of qualifying as a conditionally exempt small quantity universal waste generator (CESQUWG). In the interim, however, we are still hopeful that a way might be found to accommodate our request. As an example, an option that may be possible is periodic transport of collected items to Marina by Carmel Marina Corporation vehicles. Each week, a 30-cubic yard roll off trash container and a 20-cubic yard recycle container are removed from our property and taken to the Marina disposal site. If we were provided with appropriate receptacles for collection and transport of batteries and fluorescent bulbs, items collected here could be taken periodically on one of these trips and deposited in Marina. A procedure like this might even be evaluated as a prototype for possible application area-wide.

If the State mandate is to ban all household batteries and fluorescent tubes and bulbs from landfills, simply relying on each resident for compliance, especially when they are required to take their universal waste to a remote disposal site, seems like an unrealistic expectation. These items will continue to go in the trash in large numbers. Human nature suggests that the degree of compliance with HHW disposal will be directly proportional to the degree of convenience for that disposal.

We ask that you revisit our request with the MRWMD Board of Directors for household universal waste collected at Del Mesa Carmel to be accepted by the District free of charge – as is the case when that same waste is delivered individually by any resident within your service area. We believe that increased convenience will be a positive catalyst for increased compliance with disposal requirements, and would welcome the opportunity to work with you in exploring possible options toward this end.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Keill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Linda" and "Keill" being capitalized and prominent.

Linda Keill  
President, Del Mesa Carmel

cc: Leo Laska, MRWMD Chair  
Sue McCloud, Vice Chair  
Jane Parker, MRWMD Board of Directors  
Dave Potter, 5<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor

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# MONTEREY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

*Home of the Last Chance Mercantile*

February 10, 2010

17

WILLIAM MERRY, P.E., BCEE  
GENERAL MANAGER/  
DISTRICT ENGINEER

TIMOTHY S. FLANAGAN  
ASST. GENERAL MANAGER

RICHARD SHEDDEN, P.E.  
SENIOR ENGINEER

RICHARD NORTON  
ADMIN. SERVICES MGR.

ROBERT WELLINGTON  
COUNSEL

Ms. Linda Keill  
Del Mesa Carmel  
500 Del Mesa Drive  
Carmel, CA 93923

Dear Ms. Keill:

Thank you for your letter of January 28, 2010 regarding the collection of household batteries and fluorescent tubes and bulbs generated within your residential community. We appreciate your desire and commitment to see that these "universal wastes" are properly managed. I discussed your letter with your General Manager, Mr. Begbie, wherein we continued our conversation from several weeks ago on the matter.

To address the stockpile of batteries and bulbs that you have on site now, we would like to offer Del Mesa Carmel a free one-time drop-off of household batteries and fluorescent tubes here at our Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection facility. For this visit, we will waive the fee that applies to materials brought in by small businesses or "Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators". Please call our HHW Program Manager, Glen Evett, at (831) 384-5313, to make an appointment.

To help you and us to identify and evaluate a longer-term solution, we will also purchase a "starter kit" of pre-paid battery and fluorescent light bulb shippers for you. The "Lamp Tracker" and "Battery Tracker" programs are a service available through your hauler, Waste Management, Inc. (WM). We will provide you with the following:

- 3.5 gallon "Battery Bucket" with capacity for 70 lbs of batteries (cost \$149.95).
- Compact Lamp Tracker Box with capacity for 125 spiral CFL bulbs (cost \$109.95).
- 4 ft Lamp Tracker Box with capacity for up to 146 4 ft bulbs (cost \$109.95).

In return, we would appreciate hearing about your experience with the above products. Namely, how long does it take to fill the above containers (to help estimate your annual universal waste generation quantities and disposal needs) and do you find this a convenient service worth paying for.

Monterey County has a new Franchise Agreement with your garbage hauler, WM, which will become effective in November of this year and includes a provision for collection of some universal wastes including household batteries and "sharps" (needles). This new agreement should provide a more convenient alternative for you in sending household batteries, and perhaps other items, off to be recycled.

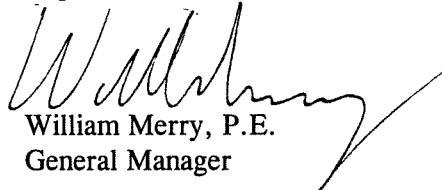
I would like to note that we do not receive the household recyclable items (cans, bottles, paper, cardboard, etc) that are collected in a central location within your community. These materials are hauled directly to a processing facility operated by WM. We do receive the waste disposal (i.e., garbage) drop box from your community, which is hauled by WM, to the Monterey Peninsula Landfill here on our site.

As you know, the cost of proper management of universal waste materials puts a burden on homeowners, businesses and public agencies such as ours. Long term, we believe that the producers that sell these products must be a partner in helping manage or absorb the cost of the end-of-life management of their products. This concept is called "extended producer responsibility (EPR)" and we anticipate the California legislature will consider several such bills this session as this issue is not unique to our community and is being discussed around the State.

In addition, I have initiated discussions with the County on solutions in providing a more responsive and consistent program, county-wide for collecting, transporting and disposing of these Universal Wastes and household hazardous materials. For your information, I am including a recently issued report from the County of Santa Clara titled "*The Road to Product Stewardship: Local Government as Catalyst*", which outlines the difficulties in handling these materials and the need for EPR. I hope you find it to be of interest.

I would like to again thank you for contacting us and I am hopeful that my staff and I have identified some short and long-term solutions that will enable you to continue to be a leader in providing excellent services and programs to your Association members.

Regards,



William Merry, P.E.  
General Manager

Enclosure

cc (with enclosure): Leo Laska, MRWMD Chair  
Sue McCloud, MRWMD Vice Chair  
Jane Parker, MRWMD Director  
Dave Potter, 5<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor  
A.J. Begbie, Del Mesa Carmel General Manager  
John Ramirez, Monterey County Environmental Health Department  
Matt Fore, Monterey County Environmental Health Department