

Del Mesa Carmel

California's Premier Adult Community

December 1, 2009

DEC 02 2009

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

Dear Mr. Merry:

Del Mesa Carmel is a 289-home condominium community in the unincorporated area of Monterey County. The Monterey Regional Waste Management District (MRWMD) provides services for the 400+ residents that live here.

Approximately one year ago we instituted a program to collect hazardous materials from our residents. We noticed that fluorescent light bulbs and household batteries were being discarded with garbage, or mixed in with non-hazardous recyclable material. In order to prevent this, and provide both an incentive and convenience to our residents to correctly dispose of these items, we initiated publicity about the importance of properly disposing of hazardous waste, and established a collection station on property. Our grounds maintenance supervisor periodically takes the items we receive to the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection site in Marina. We believe this process has multiple benefits – it provides a convenient alternative for those who would otherwise improperly dispose of this material, and it significantly reduces the number of car-trips to and from the Marina collection site.

On our most recent visit to the site, we were informed that Del Mesa is a business, and as such there would be a charge for all future material delivered to the facility. While I understand how this interpretation could be applied, I would like to ask your consideration of the following: Del Mesa is incorporated as a non-profit mutual benefit entity, owned and operated by the homeowners of the community. The Del Mesa “business” exists to provide a variety of services to its homeowners, including landscaping of the grounds and routine maintenance of the homes. There are some tasks performed by our staff that are commercial in nature, such as repainting the exterior of the homes, and some services that are offered as a convenience, such as the collection and disposal of light bulbs and batteries belonging to residents.

We would appreciate the District's permission for Del Mesa Carmel to deliver fluorescent light bulbs and household batteries to the HHW collection site once a month at no charge, as would be the case if this waste were delivered by the homeowners themselves. These items are truly household hazardous waste, and consolidation of their disposal would appear to be the most effective and efficient way to discard them. This request is for disposal of fluorescent lamps and household batteries only. We contract with commercial collection services for disposal of paints, motor oil and other hazardous materials that are more appropriately considered business related.

Thank you for consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. J. Begbie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "A" and "B".

A. J. Begbie
General Manager

cc: Sue McCloud, Vice Chair, MRWMD
Jane Parker, Director, MRWMD
DMC Board of Directors

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MONTEREY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Home of the Last Chance Mercantile

December 22, 2009

Mr. A.J. Begbie
General Manager
Del Mesa Carmel Adult Community
500 Del Mesa Drive
Carmel, CA 93923

RE: Universal Waste Management

Dear Mr. Begbie:

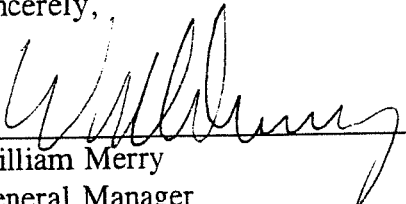
The Monterey Regional Waste Management District (MRWMD) appreciates your concerns on the proper disposal of hazardous waste. Since 1987, the District has accepted household hazardous waste (HHW), free of charge, from residents within the MRWMD service area. We also provide a program for small businesses that allows them to drop off hazardous materials as long as they meet the requirements set by the State of California. For these small businesses, Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators (CESQG), we do charge a fee which covers our cost to accept and process the materials.

In regards to your letter dated December 1, 2009, we understand that some residents feel it is an inconvenience to drive to our site north of Marina, and the need for more convenient drop off locations has been a matter that we have discussed for many years. It is also my understanding that your homeowners association at Del Mesa Carmel has established a central location for the collection of household batteries and fluorescent tubes and bulbs (universal wastes), and you would like the District to accept these materials from your association, free of charge. Unfortunately, if your homeowners association collects these materials, you do fall into the State regulated CESQG category and will be charged a disposal fee if you choose to use the MRWMD's HHW program. Also, if you continue to collect these materials, you are required by the State to register as a universal waste handler. You can find information on the registration process by visiting the California Department of Toxic Substances Control web site at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

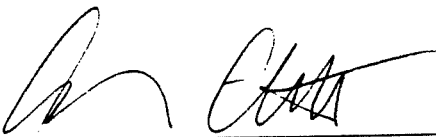
Three years ago, when the State banned household batteries and fluorescent tubes and bulbs from landfills, the MRWMD's Board of Directors saw the need for a more convenient offsite collection system for these materials and approved the funding needed to cover the costs from collection of batteries at City government locations. Currently the MRWMD is discussing the option of adding a collection location in Carmel Valley, possibly at the Fire Station or another government facility. Unfortunately these drop-off locations do not accept fluorescent tubes and bulbs. Any decisions that would add to the expense of the MRWMD's HHW program by way of offsite collection of universal wastes or the waiving of associated fees must be approved by the MRWMD Board of Directors.

Once again, we appreciate Del Mesa Carmel for your interest in making it easier for your residents, and the MRWMD encourages residents to push for a more convenient drop off system including the participation of large retailers and the manufacturers of these products.

Sincerely,



William Merry
General Manager



Glen Evett
Hazardous Materials LCM Manager

cc: Leo Laska, MRWMD Chair
Sue McCloud, MRWMD Vice Chair
Jane Parker, MRWMD Director
MRWMD Board of Directors
DMC Board of Directors