



# CENTRAL CONTRA COSTA SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

## MEMBER AGENCIES

March 16, 2010

Central Contra Costa  
County

Robert Riegg  
4006 Woodside Court  
Lafayette, CA 94549

Town of Danville

City of Lafayette

Town of Moraga

Re: Protest of Rate Hike

City of Orinda

Dear Mr Riegg:

City of Walnut Creek

We received your letter, dated March 10, and understand your concerns regarding the current rate increase. The CCCSWA Board of Directors, and agency staff, do not take rate modification lightly, and follow a careful process to make sure that increases are applied equitably. Our annual rate review process is not voluntary, but is required by our current franchise agreements with our service providers. Program costs are reviewed, including fuel, maintenance, equipment replacement, disposal cost changes, personnel, and other costs. The rate review process is performed by a third-party auditor who conducts detailed analysis to ensure that the costs are appropriate.

Both Board members and staff understand that rate increases are not popular, and never will be. However, I do want to suggest that communities within the CCCSWA service area, including Lafayette, receive some of the best refuse and recycling services in the Bay Area. These include:

- *Weekly commingled recycling collection from curbside;*
- *Weekly yard waste collection, which also includes collection of kitchen food scraps;*
- *On-call pickups for yard waste and cardboard recycling (no additional charge);*
- *Two "Reuse" collection days per year from curbside;*
- *Three "refuse only" cleanups per year;*
- *Weekly used motor oil pick-ups at curbside; and*
- *Home composting, school, public education, and other programs.*

Historically, rates for Lafayette disposal service have been much higher. Prior to the franchise agreements that were negotiated after CCCSWA formation in 1994-95, the 32 gallon service cost Lafayette residents \$26.69 per month. After negotiating the new agreements, Lafayette residents received a substantially lower rate of \$13.55 per month. Rates have increased during subsequent years due to the annual rate review requirement but at \$23.57 per month, the new rate is still less than what Lafayette residents were paying in 1994.

Our goal has been, and continues to be to maintain a high standard of service at an equitable rate. Even with the recent rate increase, Lafayette service rates are middle of the pack when compared to rates for other communities in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties.

I hope my letter provides some rationale for the recent increase. If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to give me a call. I can be reached at 925.906.1801, ext. 104. As requested, your March 10<sup>th</sup> letter will be presented to the CCCSWA Board of Directors at their next meeting.

Sincerely,

Bart Carr, Senior Program Manager  
Acting Executive Director