

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

CCC Solid Waste Authority
Bart Carr, Executive Director
1111 Civic Dr, Ste. 275
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Re: Protest of Rate Hike

Thanks for responding to my criticism of your 9.05% rate hike. You did an overview of process, but failed to address any facts to justify the increase. Third party auditors only bring you information. They are not management which must devise ways to cut costs to get within at least the cost of living increase. Nothing in your letter reflects efforts at cost containment. Such efforts by management [and I surely include the Board as it appears to exert political counter-pressures to cost controls] are stressful, but come with the territory.

I appreciate the list of services. None of them seem new, so they are not in any way a cause for inflation beyond cost of living. Why not eliminate the 3 refuse only cleanups per year and rely instead on the on-call pickups. Same for motor oil. Except for car service shops how can you justify the luxury of weekly oil pick ups. For homeowners these can be handled via on-call or drop off eg, NAPA Auto Parts and others.

The historical claim of it was more expensive in the old days has nothing to do with the modern environment. Also the good old days of 1994 did not have the homeowner and business owner spending their own time sorting the trash, garbage, etc. to the benefit of the CCCSWA.

I repeat my comment from first letter, "Our area [and your area] is in a recession. I guess government and their unions do not get it. If the Board is doing its fiscal duty, why are the members of the Board not clamping down hard like the rest of us? Even the schools are hit hard and having to do reductions in contracts, payroll, furloughs, and deferred maintenance as are homeowners and local businesses. One report of homes for sale says 30% are due to foreclosure or short sales due to loss of income to meet housing costs.

It appears your own special district believes they are above the economic realities of the current market place."

Sincerely,



Robert D. Riegg
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