

## Ida Gonzales

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**From:** Marianne Gennis <mer@gennis.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 9:43 PM  
**To:** Becky Aguilar  
**Subject:** Last Chance

CAUTION: This email is from outside the District. Do NOT click LINKS or open ATTACHMENTS unless you are sure it is safe.

Hi,

I'm writing to express my support for the Last Chance Mercantile - we love that place! Its mission is so important, keeping items out of the landfill, and encouraging re-use of items. As both a customer and a donor, we feel so fortunate to have this resource.

Question - is there a way to make it non-profit? (Although from the sounds of things, it may be operating as a non profit now.) But if you had a 501c3 status, or whatever the business would qualify for, perhaps you would get more donations from the community if they knew they would be getting a tax write-off. Just a thought.

Please encourage the board of directors to keep Last Chance in business.

Thank you,

Marianne Gennis and Mitch Gabriel

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**From:** Stephen Leiker <noreply@jotform.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 8:31 PM  
**To:** Ida Gonzales  
**Subject:** New submission: NEW MRWMD Online Contact Form

**CAUTION:** This email is from outside the District. Do NOT click LINKS or open ATTACHMENTS unless you are sure it is safe.

**Question**

Full Name  
E-mail  
Phone Number  
Interested In

**Answer**

Stephen Leiker  
[leikerland@sbcglobal.net](mailto:leikerland@sbcglobal.net)  
(831) 372-2477  
Recycling

I am upset. My family, like many others, recycle our CRV containers. I went on-line today to see if you had established a date when we could come in and redeem our CRV recyclables. And, I learned you have suspended that option PERMANENTLY! Without any options or alternatives but for saying maybe there might be a more local community recycling option sometime in the future... MAYBE! You suggested we just put those recyclables that have CRV value in our blue recycle bins for pick-up by the waste hauler. What, so you can take advantage of the value of the CRV...? I'll buy a plastic chipper before I did that and chip/break any container that has value that you might get out of them!

Question or Comment

Here's another case of the consumer getting the shaft... CalAm did the same to us when they asked us during the drought to conserve. Cut back 20%. Well, the community responded and guess what? CalAm petitioned the CPUC to allow them to raise their rates because we all conserved and we weren't using enough water so that they could make the profit they were guaranteed. So, our rates went up and we're paying more for using less! Not good! Right?

Then there's PG&E and the fires... They are on the hook, and rightfully so, for all the damage done, lives lost...and have agreed to pay the fine and the settlement to help fix the damage the fires caused. But, once again, the CPUC is allowing them to raise the rates...our rates...to pay for it. So, we're get the raw deal again.

It's again and again... And you are doing it to us, too. you should have had an alternative, a solution, in place before you just tell us that the CRV recycling program has been eliminated.

I am disgusted w/you Mr. Flanagan. I believe your former boss (Oz) would not have done this. He has integrity and would have looked for solutions...and not just suddenly stopped a program that many many people use to supplement the little income they get...the homeless and less fortunate and those with low income for example...and usually a small CRV reimbursement is received, but it's something! More than they had when they came thru the gate! We get a sense of accomplishment when we do our recycling...and, get the deposit back that is legitimately ours.

So, what happened to the program whereby you could take the CRV containers to the local stores for reimbursement?

What happened to the numerous collections sites around the community? Behind COSTCO, Safeway parking lot...etc.

I look forward to learning soon, where and when the 'community' recycling sites will be. That should have been in place now!!

Stephen j. Leiker

## Ida Gonzales

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**From:** Rosann Wachtel <phoenix519@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 8:25 PM  
**To:** Becky Aguilar  
**Subject:** Do NOT close Last Chance Mercantile!!!

**CAUTION:** This email is from outside the District. Do NOT click LINKS or open ATTACHMENTS unless you are sure it is safe.

Do NOT close Last Chance Mercantile!

It is VERY important to the community and to the environment to have somewhere to bring used items to and not have to bring them to the landfill, knowing that it will benefit the environment and the community.

Rosann Wachtel

## Ida Gonzales

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**From:** David and Rosann Wachtel <lethcaw@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 8:18 PM  
**To:** Becky Aguilar  
**Subject:** Last Chance Mercantile

**CAUTION:** This email is from outside the District. Do NOT click LINKS or open ATTACHMENTS unless you are sure it is safe.

Please do NOT let Last Chance Mercantile close!! It is extremely important to us, as environmentally friendly citizens, to have a place to bring our gently used items to avoid dumping them in the landfill, knowing that our contribution will benefit the community as a whole, and the environment.

David Wachtel

## Ida Gonzales

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**From:** Jill c <pgjackyl@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 7:58 PM  
**To:** Becky Aguilar  
**Cc:** pgjackyl@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Support for The Last Chance Mercantile

CAUTION: This email is from outside the District. Do NOT click LINKS or open ATTACHMENTS unless you are sure it is safe.

Dear Board:

Like so many others in our community I am distressed about the closure of The Last Chance Mercantile. The bulletin provided by the City makes it seem like this is a permanent closure, not a temporary one.

I know I am not the only interested party who would help do whatever is necessary to reopen those recycling doors. All I (and others) need to know is how can we help?

Thanking you in advance for anything you can do. I hope to make the meeting tomorrow during public comments and offer my support towards reopening. If I am not able to join, I hope this letter serves to express that intent.

Sincerely,

Jill Kleiss  
Pacific Grove Resident

Sent from my iPad

## Ida Gonzales

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**From:** Joyce Dodd <mizjoyce397c@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 6:52 PM  
**To:** Becky Aguilar  
**Subject:** LCM

CAUTION: This email is from outside the District. Do NOT click LINKS or open ATTACHMENTS unless you are sure it is safe.

To Whom It May Concern;

The Last Chance Mercantile is more than a dumping off place for goods, but no longer needed items. It is a place where everyone, especially the underserved of our community. We all have donation sites that we can donate to and most of them are for their own profit. I choose to donate to the LCM instead of a "for profit " group because I know that the prices are fair and that my discards are needed by many. What a humanity and PR mistake it would be to close the LCM.

Politically the county that does not take care of nor help others with a hand up will make for national news and a sad statement about YOU the directors.

Environmentally, YOU are the deciding parties that should be shamed that you are filling the land fill with usable items. It is my hope that you will see that the LCM should not be stopped, but marketed and promoted as an example of what a county can do to help others.

What are the reasons that you are wanting to stop the LCM. I suspect that there are ways that your bottle buy back program could become part of another program that would help with I suspect is a loosing program. Rise up and do the right thing.

May you take heed before the public, both local and national become aware of your decision.

Please keep the LCM for our community.

Joyce Dodd  
397c Corral de Tierra  
Salinas, CA 93908

831-5959-1559

## Ida Gonzales

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**From:** Becky Aguilar  
**Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2020 7:57 AM  
**To:** Ida Gonzales  
**Cc:** Tim Flanagan; Zoe Shoats  
**Subject:** lcm comments  
**Attachments:** LCM; Last Chance Mercantile; Support for The Last Chance Mercantile; Last Chance Mercantile; Do NOT close Last Chance Mercantile!!!; Last Chance

*Ida, these comments came in after 4 pm yesterday. Can you print out and scan? Then forward to Board and staff. Also add to the website as part of the previous ones.*



## Ida Gonzales

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**From:** Becky Aguilar  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 3:44 PM  
**To:** Ida Gonzales  
**Subject:** Fwd: SECOND CHANCE FOR THE LAST CHANCE / PUBLIC COMMENT RE 6/19/20 board of directors vote on budget / sev agenda items / layoffs of LCM staff

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Vanja Thompson <hello@vanjathompson.com>  
**Date:** June 18, 2020 at 3:41:32 PM PDT  
**To:** Becky Aguilar <baguilar@mrwmd.org>  
**Subject:** SECOND CHANCE FOR THE LAST CHANCE / PUBLIC COMMENT RE 6/19/20 board of directors vote on budget / sev agenda items / layoffs of LCM staff

**CAUTION:** This email is from outside the District. Do NOT click LINKS or open ATTACHMENTS unless you are sure it is safe.

Dear Board Members,

Before you vote on the budget this Friday June 19, I ask that you please reconsider the Last Chance Mercantile's announcement (on the FB page) that the store "will remain closed until further notice" and that you please retro-reconsider the layoff of the LCM employees. Both of these actions will deeply affect our community.

I'm confused about this part of the post "The closure includes donations of reusable goods. Household hazardous waste, electronic waste and other materials are still being accepted onsite" Does this mean you ARE accepting donations?

It seems this could be a good time to reopen in some capacity given that

1. people have been spring cleaning up a storm and ready to donate;
2. there are people rarin' to go back to thrifting/collecting;
3. there are newly in-need people economically affected by COVID-19 layoffs who will need back to school items for kids soon, recycling money, and new items for those who've had to move out/in to new places (I know of several!);
4. I imagine the employees who kept it open are eager to keep \*their\* jobs too, and adding 11 more people to the COVID-19 economic casualties would be an undesirable stain on the agency's resume;
5. people are very community minded right now and are seeing their help have immediate impact - donating/receiving foods, goods, and standing up for social awareness and responsibility related to COVID-19, to the need for social, racial and economic equality, to

caring for the environment. The LCM is part of a program that teachers and residents can use to highlight how people make a difference.

Per "Last Chance Mercantile" on FB: "I am confirming what our District Engineer David Ramirez has said in the comments - the store is not closing permanently. We are delaying the opening at this time to assess how to operate in a financially viable way. We were not able to do this with current Covid-19 safety measures, which we wanted to implement effectively to protect public health."

Goodwill stores have recently opened with limited hours and I've personally seen both donators and shoppers chomping at the bit to go back. I've seen people in the store socially distance with masks.

As the FB admin has said LCM will be sharing the FB messages with the board, I'll refrain from further repetition, but THANK YOU for reading and considering this resident's viewpoint.

Sincerely,

Vanja Thompson, Marina

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**Vanja Thompson**

***Writer. Instructor. Word Wrangler.***

**831-915-7594**

## Ida Gonzales

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**From:** Becky Aguilar  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 3:44 PM  
**To:** Ida Gonzales  
**Subject:** Fwd: Last chance

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Diane Soule <dsandsons@sbcglobal.net>  
**Date:** June 18, 2020 at 2:26:16 PM PDT  
**To:** Becky Aguilar <baguilar@mrwmd.org>  
**Subject:** Last chance

CAUTION: This email is from outside the District. Do NOT click LINKS or open ATTACHMENTS unless you are sure it is safe.

Dear Ms Aguilar and MRWMD Board of Directors,

I really hope that you do not close permanently. The Last Chance is a great way of letting the local community recycle ♻️ used items and for people maybe on a fixed income, to get essentials for their home at a reasonable price. We first discovered last chance when our son attended CSUMB, and now as homeowners in Marina we shop there often.

Last Chance is win win situation for the community and your employees. The staff there are hard workers and are willing to help customers. I have never been there without the parking lot full and a line of customers.

There must be a way to reopen with Covid safety measures in place. I hope you will find a way to continue this great service to our community.

Thanks for listening.

Diane Soule

Sent from my iPad

## Becky Aguilar

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**From:** Shellee Perkins <perkinssh@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 11:30 AM  
**To:** Becky Aguilar  
**Subject:** Mercantile

**CAUTION:** This email is from outside the District. Do NOT click LINKS or open ATTACHMENTS unless you are sure it is safe.

Hi Becky,

I'm writing to encourage the Board of Directors to Keep the Mercantile OPEN. Although I have never shopped there, I have donated items over the years. I believe we have become such a "throw away" society and the Mercantile is one way to recycle items that would ordinarily be put into the garbage dump.

With the pandemic going and so many plastic bags being used in grocery stores and our inability to reuse our old ones in the store, the garbage waste is just going to grow.

We NEED the Mercantile! Please keep it open and bring back your employees!

Kind regards,  
Shellee  
Shellee Perkins  
22700 Torero Ct.  
Toro Park  
Salinas, CA 93908

## Becky Aguilar

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**From:** Cece McCoy <cece@cecemccoy.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 10:42 AM  
**To:** Becky Aguilar  
**Subject:** Last Chance Mercantile

CAUTION: This email is from outside the District. Do NOT click LINKS or open ATTACHMENTS unless you are sure it is safe.

Please do not vote to permanently close Last Chance Mercantile!!!!

It employs many people and provides a valuable service to the entire Montetey Peninsula as well as opportunities for folks low on funds to purchase items they may need for their household.

Do not close LCM!

Thank you.  
Sincerely,  
Cece McCoy

Sent from my iPhone

## Becky Aguilar

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**From:** SANDRA UECKER <sandrauecker@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 9:46 AM  
**To:** Becky Aguilar  
**Subject:** Last Chance Mercantile

CAUTION: This email is from outside the District. Do NOT click LINKS or open ATTACHMENTS unless you are sure it is safe.

Please DO NOT CLOSE the LAST CHANCE MERCANTILE!!! It is a wonderful option for donating no longer needed stuff and a great place to look for a inexpensive options (I've done both) and...it is a job for ll people who want to work!  
A definite "WIN/WIN"  
Sandra Uecker  
Corral de Tierra

## Becky Aguilar

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**From:** nickipasculli@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020 9:38 PM  
**To:** Becky Aguilar  
**Subject:** Last Chance Merchantile

CAUTION: This email is from outside the District. Do NOT click LINKS or open ATTACHMENTS unless you are sure it is safe.

I just learned that you are considering closing the LCM. I don't understand why you would do this. LCM provides jobs, helps the environment by keeping things out of landfills and has a very loyal following of shoppers.

Please reconsider and give the LCM a second chance. Thanks!!!

Sent from my iPhone

Phone Call Received on June 17, 2020 from:

Harold Auerbach  
Marina Resident

To the Board of Directors, please do not close the Last Chance Mercantile as it is a valuable resource to the community. I have purchased many things at the LCM. I urge you to keep it open for the community; it is a healthy environment to participate in. I have brought friends to the LCM when they visit me and they enjoy it.



## Becky Aguilar

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**From:** Lydia Nguyen <lydnguyen987@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 8:16 PM  
**To:** Becky Aguilar  
**Subject:** Do not close Last Chance Mercantile

CAUTION: This email is from outside the District. Do NOT click LINKS or open ATTACHMENTS unless you are sure it is safe.

Hello,

Dear MRWMD Board of Directors. I am emailing you in hopes that you do not close the Last Chance Mercantile permanently. The Last Chance is a great way of letting the local community recycle used items instead of it going to the landfill. Many people who are on a fixed income, come to Last Chance to get essentials for their families. When it's safe, please reopen, there are many locals who can't afford to have Last Chance permanently closed down.

Best,  
Lydia


## Becky Aguilar

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**From:** Jolene Boyles <stopthepaininminutes@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 12:49 PM  
**To:** Becky Aguilar  
**Subject:** Last Chance Mer

**CAUTION:** This email is from outside the District. Do NOT click LINKS or open ATTACHMENTS unless you are sure it is safe.

Dear MRWMD Board of Directors.

I am writing because I really hope that you do not close permanently. The Last Chance is a great way of letting the local community recycle  used items and for people maybe on a fixed income, to get essentials for their home at a reasonable price. I Love looking for treasures that I wouldn't be able to find and/or afford. It's a win win situation for the community and your employees.

Covid 19 has been hard on everyone. I am sure your staff wants to return to work for their livelihood and to serve this community. The staff there are hard workers and are willing to help customers. When it's safe, please reopen and I'm sure most of your longtime customers can't wait to see you prosper again and see the awesome staff that have served us in the past.

Thanks for listening.

Jolene Boyles

## Becky Aguilar

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**From:** Wanda Sue Parrott <amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 12:25 PM  
**To:** Becky Aguilar

CAUTION: This email is from outside the District. Do NOT click LINKS or open ATTACHMENTS unless you are sure it is safe.

B. Aguilar:

I have recently learned the board will vote this week on whether or not to close Last Chance Mercantile. Although I do not personally shop there, I have enjoyed being able to donate items that can be of use to others—such as part-full cans of housepaint and a few new batteries of different voltages, or unmatched bed sheets. I understand around 11 persons will lose their jobs if LCM closes, and ask you to ask if such a vote by the board will add 11 more people to the already burgeoning ranks of homeless people on the Monterey Peninsula. Thanks for considering keeping it open.

Wanda Sue Parrott  
May the muse be with you

## Becky Aguilar

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**From:** Cathryn Ainsworth <cathryn.ainsworth@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 10:07 AM  
**To:** Becky Aguilar  
**Subject:** Last Chance Mercantile

**CAUTION:** This email is from outside the District. Do NOT click LINKS or open ATTACHMENTS unless you are sure it is safe.

To Whom It May Concern,

It was brought to my attention that the Last Chance Mercantile is at risk of shutting its doors permanently. This information was shocking to read. I have lived in the city of Marina for my entire life. 30 years I have spent learning and growing within this community. I recall learning about the benefits of this organization at a very young age, and how I could contribute to the reduce, reuse, recycle program. Throughout my time living in this wonderful city, I have contributed many donations to this beneficial organization and have purchased many items. Contributing to this organization gives me the feeling of an additional way to give back to my community. I would much rather contribute to a local community organization like Last Chance Mercantile than other facilities like Goodwill. Additionally, this organization has been a place to safely dispose of unused household products and electronics. If this doesn't exist, there could be negative impacts on our environment.

I should also mention that I have never once had a bad experience with the workers. Each person who I had come into contact with has met me and my family with much respect. This organization is extremely valuable to myself, the city and the entire Monterey Peninsula.

I understand that this pandemic has dramatically shifted the economy. I understand the potential health-risks that are of concern. This is unfortunate across the board for many organizations, but I implore you to seek reason before closing this community staple. Especially, with the knowledge that this is the time that the community has been stuck at home. The community is ready to donate and not just trash items. Our community needs the Last Chance Mercantile. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Cathryn Ainsworth

## Becky Aguilar

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**From:** Alison Kim <sfdancingbird@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 8:50 AM  
**To:** Becky Aguilar  
**Subject:** Last Chance Mercantile

**CAUTION:** This email is from outside the District. Do NOT click LINKS or open ATTACHMENTS unless you are sure it is safe.

To the esteemed Board,

Please find a way to keep Last Chance Mercantile in operation. It provides several vital functions to the community from economic benefits (wages, low cost products, tax revenue...) to environmental impact (supporting recycling/upcycling and reducing landfill).

My brother has used your services on many occasions to improve my mother's house in Marina! The greater Monterey Bay Area benefits from its existence! I do understand it is a challenging time we find ourselves in these days but please do all you can to ensure this valuable establishment continues.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Alison Kim


Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

## Becky Aguilar

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**From:** Justin Ware <thegreatjustino@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:38 PM  
**To:** Becky Aguilar  
**Subject:** Last Chance Mercantile

**CAUTION:** This email is from outside the District. Do NOT click LINKS or open ATTACHMENTS unless you are sure it is safe.

Dear MRWMD Board of Directors. I really hope that you do not close permanently. The Last Chance is a great way of letting the local community recycle  used items and for people maybe on a fixed income, to get essentials for their home at a reasonable price. It's a win win situation for the community and your employees. Covid 19 has been hard on everyone. I am sure your staff wants to return to work for their livelihood and to serve this community. The staff there are hard workers and are willing to help customers. I really consider them friends now that I have been coming to the Last Chance at least three times during the week for the past three years. When it's safe, please reopen and I'm sure most of your longtime customers can't wait to see you prosper again and see the awesome staff that have served us in the past. Thanks for listening.


## Becky Aguilar

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**From:** EDDIE FRANCISCO <eddief1981@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 10:59 PM  
**To:** Becky Aguilar  
**Subject:** Last Chance Mercantile & CRV-redemption bottle and can Buyback Center.

CAUTION: This email is from outside the District. Do NOT click LINKS or open ATTACHMENTS unless you are sure it is safe.

Dear MRWMD Board of Directors:

I really hope that you do not permanently close The Last Chance Mercantile and I would like to voice my support for your recently laid off employees. The Last Chance is a great way of letting the local community recycle  used items and for people maybe on a fixed income, to get essentials for their home at a reasonable price. It's a win win situation for the community and your employees. Covid 19 has been hard on everyone. I am sure your staff wants to return to work for their livelihood and to serve this community. The staff there are hard workers and are willing to help customers. I really consider them friends now that I have been coming to the Last Chance at least three times during the week for the past three years. When it's safe, please reopen and I'm sure most of your longtime customers can't wait to see you prosper and see the awesome staff that have served us in the past. Thanks for listening.

Sent from my iPhone  
Eddie Francisco  
Marina Resident

## Becky Aguilar

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**From:** Leslie Wolfson <lwolfson56@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 13, 2020 6:47 PM  
**To:** Becky Aguilar  
**Subject:** Don't close the mercantile

CAUTION: This email is from outside the District. Do NOT click LINKS or open ATTACHMENTS unless you are sure it is safe.

Dear MRWMD board:

I was shocked to hear you are planning to close the Last Chance Mercantile! It serves a purpose that no other thrift store does — offers inexpensive clothes and household items to low income people. If you've been to the other thrift stores, you can see that their prices are not exactly "thrifty."

Although I am not low income, I love shopping there. I used to go several times a month.

At the very least, stay open for a few days a week. That's better than closing altogether.

Please reconsider.

Sincerely,

Leslie



## Becky Aguilar

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**From:** Julie Campbell <soupergma@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 13, 2020 4:08 PM  
**To:** Becky Aguilar  
**Subject:** Last Chance Mercantile

**CAUTION:** This email is from outside the District. Do NOT click LINKS or open ATTACHMENTS unless you are sure it is safe.

To whom it may concern;

This letter comes as a petition to keep Last Chance Mercantile open.

I have lived on the peninsula since the early 1950's. For the past 30 years I have seen this facility make many improvements and be an essential part of service provided to the community.

Please consider keeping this facility open.

Thank you,  
Julie Campbell

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

## Becky Aguilar

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**From:** monique <fargues@redshift.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 13, 2020 12:39 PM  
**To:** Becky Aguilar  
**Subject:** public comment on 6/19/20 meeting, item #9 regarding closure of the last chance mercantile

**CAUTION:** This email is from outside the District. Do NOT click LINKS or open ATTACHMENTS unless you are sure it is safe.

Ms., Becky Aguilar, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board Please include the following public comment regarding item #9 on the June 19 agenda. ----- P. 2 of the budget report indicates a plan to keep close the last chance mercantile (LCM), while at the same time, the proposed budget includes a proposal to increase dump fees. The LCM keeps usable goods out of the landfill, and closing the LCM permanently would negatively affect the environment and the community members. The LCM keeps items out of the landfill providing MC residents to dispose of usable items in a safe and re-usable fashion. Closing this option will result in increased incidence of items thrown out on side roads in the county, which will eventually end up at the dump. I urge the BoD to consider how to re-open the LCM in a safe fashion to participate in the county effort to reduce usable items going to the dump unnecessarily. The BoD must play their part in the State effort request to reduce landfill usage, not unnecessarily contribute to its increase.. I also severely question the lack of long-term vision in permanently closing the CRV-redemption Bottle and Can Buyback Center. That closure will result in additional amounts of glass and plastic bottles thrown out in the trash and/or the home recycling bins and an increased workload for the staff who sorts items when they get the dump.

If it is financially unfeasible to keep the redemption center open, I urge the BoD to request the dump make available separate dumpsters where MC residents can bring their pre-sorted glass and plastic bottles.

thank you for your consideration,  
Monique P. Fargues  
3235 isla del sol way,  
marina

## Becky Aguilar

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**From:** Nancy Garcia <info@mrsnancy.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 8:12 PM  
**To:** Becky Aguilar  
**Subject:** Last Chance Merchantile

**CAUTION:** This email is from outside the District. Do NOT click LINKS or open ATTACHMENTS unless you are sure it is safe.

Dear Ms. Aguilar,

I just found out that the facility might be closing permanently. I am saddened by the news and hope the board is able to reevaluate the closure.

Last Chance Merchantile has been through out my career. While being a student at CSUMB in 2002. I would always go there to obtain materials for classes and for my living situation. Has in was settling down and became a teacher, once again, the staff was able to help me collect material for my first grade class. Now that I have my own children, we would always go and give some of our toys and would find new treasures. The smile and enthusiasm on my kids face, priceless. The facility had always been kind and helpful. I know we're currently dealing with COVID-19, measures definitely need to be taken. But please, don't close down! We live going there, we love and use all your resources.

Thank you for your time. I wish you all the best and hope the board can reconsider.

Respectfully,

Nancy Garcia

## Becky Aguilar

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**From:** Jennifer Gobbell <jennifergobbell@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 5:35 PM  
**To:** Becky Aguilar  
**Subject:** last chance!

**CAUTION:** This email is from outside the District. Do NOT click LINKS or open ATTACHMENTS unless you are sure it is safe.

Please don't close the shop! The Mercantile has so many useful necessities for the community. We've LONG awaited the reopening only to hear ours in the chopping block. Sad!

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

## Becky Aguilar

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**From:** Debra Daniels <supergirl2u2@att.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 5:00 PM  
**To:** Becky Aguilar  
**Subject:** Closing Last Chance Merchantile

CAUTION: This email is from outside the District. Do NOT click LINKS or open ATTACHMENTS unless you are sure it is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I implore you to reconsider any closure of this service to the community.

During this difficult time we now live in LCM is more important than ever.

I nearly furnished my apartment a few years ago with my treasures from LCM. Losing 11 jobs is not acceptable, rather see some people take a pay cut - this is so important to all of Monterey County.

Please make the right decision  
Debra Armbruster  
835 Kimball Sp 10  
Seaside Ca. 93955

831-236-1459

Sent from my iPhone

## Becky Aguilar

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**From:** JANELLE ANSBERRY <ansberry@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 4:35 PM  
**To:** Becky Aguilar  
**Subject:** Last Chance Mercantile

CAUTION: This email is from outside the District. Do NOT click LINKS or open ATTACHMENTS unless you are sure it is safe.

PLEASE! PLEASE! Consider keeping Last Chance Mercantile open! So many people depend on them for clothing,housewares, books not to mention everything in the "yard" that we have access to! Now more than ever Last Chance needs to stay open!  
Thank You!  
Janelle Ansberry

Sent from my iPad

## Becky Aguilar

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**From:** Cathy Myers <cathy.myers831@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 4:34 PM  
**To:** Becky Aguilar  
**Subject:** Last chance

CAUTION: This email is from outside the District. Do NOT click LINKS or open ATTACHMENTS unless you are sure it is safe.

For the love of God please don't close this facility.  
We don't need all that stuff in the landfill.  
Sincerely concerned Citizen , Myers Cathy

Sent from my iPhone

## Becky Aguilar

---

**From:** Stephanie Spross <slspross@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 4:33 PM  
**To:** Becky Aguilar  
**Subject:** Last Chance Closing

**CAUTION:** This email is from outside the District. Do NOT click LINKS or open ATTACHMENTS unless you are sure it is safe.

Hello,

I read the press release from MRWMD regarding the potential permanent closure of Last Chance Mercantile. As a member of the community I am against this closure. As a college student I furnished multiple residences with items from your store and currently as a teacher I often go there to look through the books. My family has donated many items to Last Chance to keep them out of the landfill. The staff is hardworking, kind, and helpful during every visit. Again, as a community member I recommend that you do not close Last Chance.

Thank you for reading.

--

Stephanie Spross  
[slspross@gmail.com](mailto:slspross@gmail.com)



## TWITTER

- no comments on post for @lcm\_store

← **Tweet**



**MRWMD** @mrwmd\_org · Jun 12

Last Chance Mercantile reuse store will remain closed until further notice due to budgetary constraints. The store has historically operated at a loss, which is unlikely to change under current conditions of heightened health safety.

Read the full release:

[mrwmd.org/2020/06/12/las...](http://mrwmd.org/2020/06/12/las...)



1 1 0 0 0



**Trash Loneliness**

@techno\_ben

Replying to @mrwmd\_org

Sad. Very sad.

## FACEBOOK

**Monterey Regional Waste Management District page:**



**Monterey Regional Waste Management District (MRWMD)**

Published by Angela Goebel [?] · June 12 at 3:23 PM · 🌐

MRWMD's popular Last Chance Mercantile re-use store will remain closed until further notice due to budgetary constraints. Last Chance Mercantile is a beloved institution and key to the District's mission of "turning waste into resources" by fulfilling one of the seven R's of sustainability—reuse.

Unfortunately, the store has historically operated at a loss, a situation unlikely to change under current conditions of heightened health safety.

Thus, the store will remain closed while the District reassesses the best path forward.

The closure includes donations of reusable goods. Household hazardous waste, electronic waste and other materials are still being accepted onsite.

MRWMD Board of Directors and staff will examine possible paths forward to an eventual reopening of the Last Chance Mercantile with the store operating more economically, while fulfilling the District's mission.

Thank you to all our customers for your support!

Read the full press release:

<https://www.mrwmd.org/.../last-chance-mercantile-remain-clos.../>

# Last Chance Mercantile to Remain Closed Until Further Notice



1,262  
People Reached

213  
Engagements

Boost Post

👍👎👏 40

16 Comments 9 Shares



**Leslie Sheppard** Please plan a re-opening strategy, it can be done. Last Chance is so fantastic, such a huge part of our community, I know a solution can be created to bring Last Chance back to the community. EVERYONE loves Last Chance, and would be compliant with any strategy that would keep everyone safe. Please, please, please..... 😊

Like · Reply · Message · 21h



**Elinora Mantovani** A really great resource. I'm sorry that it is one of may essential resources being affected by budgetary constraints. I hope the state/county/district find a way to get it open again.

Like · Reply · Message · 3d · Edited

👍 1



**Patie McCracken** I love Last Chance. Such a great store. I miss donating and buying things and giving them a second life. I do hope you will reopen soon. Maybe raise your prices a bit to get more revenue?

Like · Reply · Message · 4d

👍 1



Author

**Monterey Regional Waste Management District (MRWMD)**  
Patie McCracken Thank you for your support Patie. Yes, we are exploring what public health safety measures and financial models will allow us to reopen safely and sustainably.

Like · Reply · Commented on by Angela Goebel [?] · 4d

👍 2



**Shannon Conner** We love Last Chance! But totally understand. We have been waiting sooo patiently to come get some dirt for the garden, but we will keep waiting.

Like · Reply · Message · 4d



Author

**Monterey Regional Waste Management District (MRWMD)**  
Shannon, the bulk purchases of soil, compost and wood chips are currently available through the MRWMD scales. You need a truck, or trailer and means to cover and secure your load, but we will take care of the loading of the product. See for pricing and info. <https://www.mrwmd.org/landscapeproducts/>

Like · Reply · Commented on by Kimberle Herring [?] · 4d



Reply as Monterey Regional Waste Manag...



**Suzi Bluford** This was a wonderful community service-hope they can bring it back!!

Like · Reply · Message · 3d



**Nina Ryan** In Sonoma County they contracted the store piece out and have been able to keep theirs open.

Like · Reply · Message · 4d



**Roberta Leann Greathouse** I was hoping to purchase a composter. Has that program also been eliminated?

Like · Reply · Message · 4d



Author

**Monterey Regional Waste Management District (MRWMD)**  
Hi Roberta, it is currently on hold with the store being temporarily closed. We list the bins we sell on our website [www.mrwmd.org](http://www.mrwmd.org) on the compost page if you'd like to order online from another vendor before we reopen.



MRWMD.ORG

Monterey Regional Waste Management District - MRWMD

Like · Reply · Commented on by Angela Goebel [?] · Remove Preview · 4d



**Kathy Shie** Is the bottle buy back open yet?

Like · Reply · Message · 4d



Author

**Monterey Regional Waste Management District (MRWMD)**

Hi Kathy, the Buy Back Center has closed permanently unfortunately. You can click on the link for the press release for more details.

Like · Reply · Commented on by Angela Goebel (?) · 4d



**Irene Merrill** Oh gosh, I hope you find some way to keep it open. I have always had good luck in buying everything from office and patio furniture to decorative items. Think of what you are keeping out of the landfill! p.s. have you noticed that whatever item/items you post on Facebook seem to disappear quickly?? Maybe some more FB marketing?

Like · Reply · Message · 4d



Author

**Monterey Regional Waste Management District (MRWMD)**

Thanks Irene. We are hoping to make the store financially viable in the future so that we can reopen. We do consider reuse a key part of reducing waste!

Like · Reply · Commented on by Angela Goebel (?) · 4d



**Tammy Isidro** I'm sorry to hear this. 😞

Like · Reply · Message · 4d



**Catlyn Joy** 🙌❤️🙌❤️🙌❤️🙌❤️🙌❤️🙌❤️🙌❤️🙌

Like · Reply · Message · 4d



**Facebook Last Chance Mercantile page:**



**8,265**

People Reached

**1,631**

Engagements

**Boost Post**

🙄👍👎 188

56 Comments 48 Shares



**David Ramirez** Opening is delayed. It is not going away completely.

Like Reply Message 4d



**Lysa Marie** David Ramirez The employees were laid off and told they should look for another job. Sounds permanent to me 🙄

Like Reply Message 4d



**Vanja Thompson** David Ramirez Can you please clarify this for me? I understand you're delaying the reopening bc of COVID-19 and budget concerns. But from a quick read of your website and meeting minutes, budget I understood that the Board of Directors is voting on the... [See More](#)

Like Reply Message 1d



**Joanna Lynn** This makes me really sad. I love going there. All the employees are very welcoming and helpful. I'm going to Miss going there. I hope you can reopen soon with all the same friendly faces. 😞

Like Reply Message 4d



**Anne Michelle** Joanna Lynn they already laid them off.

Like Reply Message 2d



Reply as Last Chance Mercantile



**Nina Muñoz** It is a great place to search for treasures and keeps in line with recycle and reusing! Hopefully it will stay open!

Like Reply Message 4d



**Marion Heebink** It is a special place to the community! Good luck in the future! We'll all be back.

Like Reply Message 4d





**Don Lins** I didn't realize the Mercantile was dependant on monetary profits. How much money does waste management make?

And aren't you supposed to be confined at home who conveniently brought a new previous non issue to the board in a time of returning to norma... [See More](#)

[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Message](#) 1d



**Last Chance Mercantile** The Last Chance Mercantile has historically operated at a loss. With revenues dropping due to COVID-19, the District had to make cuts of \$4M+ for next fiscal year. The Last Chance Mercantile is a non-essential and unmandated service that the District provides. With added COVID-19 safety concerns, we could not figure out a way to immediately reopen the store while maintaining the financial stability of the District. Staff and the Board will assess options for a reopening.

[Like](#) [Reply](#) Commented on by Angela Goebel (?) · 1d



**Barbara McHale** I'm so sorry to hear this. My favorite place to shop with the nicest staff.

[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Message](#) 4d



**Last Chance Mercantile** I am confirming what our District Engineer David Ramirez has said in the comments - the store is not closing permanently. We are delaying the opening at this time to assess how to operate in a financially viable way. We were not able to do this with current Covid-19 safety measures, which we wanted to implement effectively to protect public health.

[Like](#) [Reply](#) Commented on by Angela Goebel (?) · 4d · Edited



**Dave Nguyen** I miss all the haunted stuff they sold..

[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Message](#) 4d



**Vanja Thompson Last Chance Mercantile** I hope the Board of Directors will consider the public's comments before they vote this Friday 6/19 on the new fiscal year budget - please correct me if I'm wrong but I didn't see the budget showing either a plan to restaff or a line item showing LCM revenue should it be reopened. This doesn't seem like a plan but rather a closure.

[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Message](#) 1d



**Vanja Thompson Last Chance Mercantile** In addition, the LCM has traditionally operated and a loss and much of its value has helped with "goodwill" and marketing and touting the program as one that other agencies in the country come to study. Seems like the value your own communications champion, the value it has added to your public agency as a whole is not being considered here.



[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Message](#) 1d



**Last Chance Mercantile Vanja Thompson** We are passing on these social media comments to the Board of Directors in advance of Friday's meeting. Thank you again for your support of the store!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Commented on by Angela Goebel (?) · 1m



**Vanja Thompson Last Chance Mercantile** I really appreciate it. Thank you. And I know this is not an easy decision - I'm just glad you're including the public comments in this public agency's voting process.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1h · Edited



1



**Eddie Francisco** Dear MRWMD Board of Directors. I really hope that you do not close permanently. The Last Chance is a great way of letting the local community recycle  used items and for people maybe on a fixed income, to get essentials for their home at a reasonable price. It's a win win situation for the community and your employees. Covid 19 has been hard on everyone. I am sure your staff want to return to work for their livelihood and to serve this community. The staff there are hard workers and are willing to help customers. I really consider them friends now that I have been coming to the Last Chance at least three times during the week for the past three years. When it's safe, please reopen and I'm sure most of your longtime customers can't wait to see you prosper again and see the awesome staff that have served us in the past. Thanks for listening.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 4d



8




**Last Chance Mercantile Eddie Francisco** Thank you for your support of the store, the staff and it's mission. To reiterate: the Last Chance Mercantile is not closing permanently. The store will be closed until further notice while management and the Board of Directors determine the best path forward to a reopening that is financially sustainable while protecting the safety of staff and our customers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Regrettably, we couldn't keep Last Chance staff employed any longer while we reassess the store's future.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Commented on by Angela Goebel (?) · 4d

 **Eddie Francisco** Last Chance Mercantile

Like Reply Message 4d


 **Eddie Francisco** Last Chance Mercantile I really hope when you decide to reopen. At whatever capacity the economy and safety allows you to. That you will bring back the same great and friendly staff. 🙏.

Like Reply Message 4d

 1

 Reply as Last Chance Mercantile




 **James W Peterson** I've seen operating statements for LCM and there have been years where the operation is a money maker. LCM also reduces the need for additional landfill acres.

Like Reply Message 4d


 5

↪ 2 Replies

 **Betty Joan Fowles** Don't understand how they operate at a loss when they don't have to pay for the inventory. I understand the overhead costs, but this place is always busy.


Like Reply Message 4d

 8

 **Georgia Garden** Noooooo.... 😭 We love this wonderful store! Always busy and so helpful to our community!


Like Reply Message 4d

  3

 **David Ramirez** Georgia opening is delayed. Store is not closing forever.

Like Reply Message 4d

 1

 **Georgia Garden** David, oh really? I hope so! Thanks.

Like Reply Message 4d

 Reply as Last Chance Mercantile



 **Colleen Lawson Petro** i will miss seeing you guys

Like Reply Message 4d

 2





**Denise Johnson** Does that mean that we can't get dirt, mulch, etc?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 4d



**Last Chance Mercantile** Hi Denise, we are still selling by the truckload and we are checking with Operations to see if we can also make by the bag available onsite. We'll post an update on this next week.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Commented on by Angela Goebel (?) · 4d · Edited



**Andrew Carlson** You can't make any money if you're closed.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 4d



**Nancy Louise Smith** This is not good 😞😞

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 4d



**David Ramirez** Nancy opening is delayed. The store just wont open like all other retail at this time.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 4d



**Nancy Louise Smith** David Ramirez  
The article says it may not reopen!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 4d



**David Ramirez** Nancy, it isn't going away permanently.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 4d



**Vanja Thompson** I'm confused about this part of the post "The closure includes donations of reusable goods. Household hazardous waste, electronic waste and other materials are still being accepted onsite" Does this mean you ARE accepting donations?

It seems this could be a good time to reopen given that

1. people have been spring cleaning up a storm and ready to donate;
2. there are people rarin' to go back to thrifting/collecting;
3. there are newly in-need people economically affected by COVID-19 layoffs who will need back to school items for kids soon, recycling money, and new items for those who've had to move out/in to new places (I know of several!);
4. I imagine the employees who keep it open are eager to keep "their" jobs too
5. people are very community minded right now and are seeing their help have immediate impact - donating/receiving foods, goods, and standing up for social awareness and responsibility related to COVID-19, to the need for social, racial and economic equality, to caring for the environment. The LCM is part of a program that teachers and residents can use to highlight how people make a difference. I hope at your vote on Friday you will take these messages into account.

[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Message](#) 4d





**Last Chance Mercantile** **Vanja Thompson** Hi Vanja, we are not accepting any donations of reusable goods at this time. Other services, including those listed, are still available. Thank you for your thoughtful and passionate support of keeping the store open. It is our goal to reopen again when it is sustainable: both financially and for human health. This was a very difficult decision and regrettably, we couldn't keep Last Chance staff employed any longer while we assess the store's future.

Like · Reply · Commented on by Angela Goebel (?) · 4d



**Vanja Thompson** **Last Chance Mercantile** thank you — Can you please clarify this for me? I understand you're delaying the reopening bc of COVID-19 and budget concerns. But from a quick read of your website and meeting minutes, budget I understood that the Board of Directors is voting on the fiscal year budget this Friday and the proposed budget doesn't show any of the 11 laid off positions coming back. (I read pretty quickly a few days ago but that's what I understood). Thank you for addressing this.

Like · Reply · Message · 1d



**Last Chance Mercantile** I replied above, but for readers seeing your question here: Thanks for your question. We are obligated to present to the Board a 12-month budget. At this point, we have no way of predicting when or how we will be re-opening the Last Chance Mercantile, so cannot quantify those costs in this budget. We have, however, included funds to support the assessment. Staff has communicated to the Board that it is our intent to bring back to them a budget revision at the point we have defined the conditions and costs of re-opening.

Like · Reply · Commented on by Angela Goebel (?) · 3m · Edited



**Vanja Thompson** **Last Chance Mercantile** thanks very much for the response! But I do think it's a bit misleading to characterize, in responses, the current situation as a delay in opening rather than a closure.

Like · Reply · Message · 8m · Edited



**Shanae Ignico** I use to look forward to our trips there when I was a kid. Hope things turn around soon.

Like · Reply · Message · 1d



**Eddie Francisco** Just sad 😞

Like · Reply · Message · 4d



**Charles Boomer Tanner** Wow..stage 3 now and you guys cant cant catch a break

Like · Reply · Message · 4d



1



**Pamela Hughes Avery** This makes me sad.

Like · Reply · Message · 4d

↩ 1 Reply



**Teeto Rivera** wow 😊

Like · Reply · Message · 4d



**Shea Lefever**



1

Like · Reply · Message · 4d

### INSTAGRAM



**jdshaloop** Hope you find a way to reopen!

4d · Reply



**chelsea\_mystic\_soul** 😞😞😞

4d · Reply



**lindalaylindalay** Although I miss sifting through all your treasures, I am curious to know what that creepy doll has been up to while you've been closed.

4d · Reply



**alis0n\_claire** 😞😞

4d · Reply



**radiofreearthur** LCM is every bit as important to MRWMD's sustainability based vision as its cutting edge composing operation, onsite methane-to-energy facility, and high volume automated recyclables sorting. When visitors come from all over the world I take them to both the Monterey Aquarium and the Last Chance Mercantile. Both are unique and amazing.



**robinsgregory** The stuff is piling up.

3d Reply

**NEXTDOOR**



**Jill Kleiss**, Pacific Grove



**Popular Last Chance Mercantile Closed due to lack of funding**

Last Chance Mercantile to Remain Closed Until Further Notice MRWMD budgetary constraints restrict non-essential services

(Monterey County, CA) Monterey Regional Waste Management's (MRWMD) popular Last Chance Mercantile re-use store will remain closed until further notice due to budgetary constraints. Last Chance Mercantile is a beloved institution and key to the District's mission of "turning waste into resources" by fulfilling one of the seven R's of sustainability—reuse. Unfortunately, the store has historically operated at a loss, a situation unlikely to change under current conditions of heightened health safety. Thus, the store will remain closed while the District reassesses the best path forward.

2 days ago · 13 neighborhoods in General



Thank



Comment



**Mary Johnson**, Pacific Grove



I would think it would be even more popular as the funds people have to spend are less they will be buying second hand and looking for bargain prices. Sad to see it stay shut hope it finds a way to reopen.

2 days ago

Thank

Reply



**Lydia Collins**, Pacific Grove



I hope so too! Many of us have spent some of the SIP time cleaning out closets, downsizing, etc and there is no place to take things. Several of the thrift/consignment shops are not accepting donations for now. I hate the thought of having to throw nice usable items in the trash! But I guess that is just part of the new normal . . .

1 day ago

Thank

Reply





Cy Colburn, Pacific Grove



Goodwill is open again

1 day ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#) 😊 1



Jill Kleiss, Pacific Grove



I'm hoping there is some way we can re-budget the Mercantile back into our lives. I hope others agree, too. Thanks!

1 day ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#) 😊 +1 4



Cy Colburn, Pacific Grove



They got free stock it should be possible.

1 day ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#) 😊 1



David Myers, Pacific Grove



Like all public agencies, the Monterey Regional Waste Mgt Dist has serious budget problems. The decline in the economy has reduced the flow of waste & income to the District. Recycling is no longer profitable, but still necessary. The MRWMD has laid off employees and a large number of very long term employees have taken early retirement. Mgt employees have taken pay cuts. However, as the GM of the MRWMD in 1991 when we created the Last Chance Mercantile, I am very concerned about a long term closure of the Store. It is important to our community as a place to take stuff other non profits can't handle and to provide bargains for all of us. It has been an important part of the MRWMD's mission to "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle" Hopefully it can be reopened sooner rather than later.

1 day ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#) 😊 +1 7



Jill Kleiss, Pacific Grove



Thank you for writing, David. I posted this in hope of connecting with those in the know, like you. If I can help, please let me know how!

1 day ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#) +1 1