

Richard T Sells
Cemetery Consultant
2500 6th Avenue, #803
San Diego, CA 92103

To Whom It May Concern,

The Green Acres Memorial Park rules and regulations will require that each in-ground burial must be accompanied by a concrete outer burial container. The reasoning behind this is two-fold, as it not only helps with the below grade pressure to protect the casket but also denies any potential environmental impacts to the surrounding soil in the event that a body is embalmed.

In only the Muslim religion is it required that the body be placed into the ground open to the soil below, noting that Muslim burial practice does not allow for the body to be embalmed. Even with the concrete liner covering only three sides of the body, this type of burial hasn't had a negative impact on the environment or water table at any cemetery that I've personally been involved with which is well over 600.

While not every buried body is embalmed it is an option that the State of California has deemed acceptable for those who chose. This is a decision that came after much study which proved to show that the only potentially harmful part of the embalming process is to the embalmer while the body is being prepared for burial. No such body preparation or embalming will be done onsite by Green Acres.

When embalming, formaldehyde is used in extremely small quantities with just a matter of ounces per body and accounts for less than 2% of the total fluid used. Over a very short period of time the formaldehyde degrades with much of the degradation occurring in the body tissues and even within the casket by adsorption into casket materials. Again, once put into the ground the chemicals used during the embalment process have a life span of less than 14 days and surrounding the embalmed body with a concrete vault sufficiently controls any threat of leaked chemicals during that time.

The only possible situation for leachates to transfer from the remains to the surrounding groundwater would be in a swamp like area with a water table of 6 feet or less as the casket would need to completely fill with water and flush out into the surrounding soil. When comparing this to the property owned by Green Acres, which has a water table in excess of 60 feet, it is more than safe to rule out any possibility of contamination into the surrounding soil or groundwater below.



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